Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-94-065
Tuesday
5 April 1994

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FBIS-EEU-94-065 *5 April 1994*

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Cabinet Members React to Zhelev Criticism

AU0404143994 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] What is the reaction of the cabinet members to the opinion President Zhelyu Zhelev expressed regarding the current government? Bilyana Mikhaylova, who at present is at the Council of Ministers, answers this question.

[Mikhaylova] Perhaps I should remind the listeners that the president accused the cabinet of delaying the privatization, failing to encourage foreign investments in Bulgaria, and blocking the agrarian reform. We were interested in the opinion of various cabinet members and the prime minister himself regarding the president's opinion.

Industry Minister Rumen Bikov said that after the commentary of the prime minister the issue has been exhausted, and he would not allow himself a commentary as to what the president is doing.

However, Acting Prime Minister Evgeni Matinchev was more talkative. He said that when the president makes such a statement this naturally should make the cabinet members uneasy, but according to him, the president's assessment is more emotional than based on real grounds in every single aspect mentioned by the president.

Matinchev also pointed out that no cabinet member contemplates resignation. He had a talk with Prime Minister Berov, and neither the prime minister nor he or any other member of the cabinet intend to resign.

Matinchev did not deny the fact that he feels himself responsible for the situation in which we find ourselves and the measures that the government must adopt in order to calm the situation as soon as possible. He added that he does not think that the hysteria which developed recently would positively affect the important accord and agreements that will be signed soon.

He did not deny that personnel changes were possible, but he said that it is too soon to talk about this. First of all, structural changes should take place, and this means assessing the present situation and deciding how to improve the efficiency of the government.

It appears that we will not learn anything specific until the precise and concrete opinion of the prime minister is issued.

Zhelev Said Seeking Reconciliation With SDS

AU0104151994 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Mikaela Vuzharova: "Dialogue With the Union of Democratic Forces Is Necessary, Especially Under the Present Circumstances"]

[Text] A noncommunist government capable of implementing at least part of the reform by the end of 1994 could be formed under the current parliament. All this is possible. However, the goodwill and energy of a strong cabinet are required in such case. The country is suffering because it feels the lack of change. This is what President Zhelyu Zhelev stated in an interview for the daily NOVO SLOVO [NEW WORD]. A dialogue with the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] is necessary, especially under the present circumstances, he said. I am ready for such talks if the SDS should manifest an interest in holding them, the head of state declared a year and a half after his breach with the political forces, thanks to whose voters he obtained his present post, a breach that he was personally responsible for. At the same time, Dr. Zhelev continues to insist that he did not contribute to the fall of the SDS government in 1992.

A cabinet formed by noncommunist forces—something that could not take place without the participation of the SDS—a cabinet that will not rule forever, but that could do much in view of the forthcoming elections, so that they may give a greater chance to the democratic forces—this is how President Zhelev explains his idea, which was repeatedly launched by MP Georgi Markov [from the SDS]. The head of state is categorical in stating that a cabinet that is based neither on the Berov cabinet formula nor the former Dimitur Popov government could be elected under the present parliament.

Zhelev's evaluation of the team that is ruling Bulgaria today is that it is supported by the Socialist Party. This fact ties the hands of the cabinet in many respects, according to the president. The program of the Berov government offered many opportunities, but they were not implemented at all, Zhelev thinks. He further declared that all parliamentary political forces, even those of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] under whose mandate the cabinet was formed, had great reservations about it, and hence, the possibility exists that the government would be soon overthrown.

Zhelyu Zhelev insisted on his previous statement that elections should be held in the autumn of 1994.

According to recent analyses made by the presidential team, the situation in the country is especially alarming, most of all due to the complete breakdown in people's trust in the state institutions. DEMOKRATSIYA was told this by a source at 2 Dondukov Street [address of the Presidency]. According to the team's findings, the parliament is already in the ridiculous situation of falling below the critical 10-percent confidence barrier. According to a sounding of opinions among the political forces, it appears that the DPS intends to revise its behavior in parliament and support a possible new cabinet, which should prepare the forthcoming elections on a democratic basis. Numerous deputies of the new formations at the National Assembly, with the exception of a few individuals mostly from the Alternative Liberal-Social Party [ASP], reportedly share the same views. According to NOVO SLOVO, they are all awaiting the

trend of the SDS's behavior after Prime Minister Berov's operation, namely in the new stage of the political and economic crisis. This factor, in particular, is supposed to be decisive for Prime Minister Berov's own dilemma, in connection with deciding whether he should remain in his post or resign after leaving hospital.

Commentary Condemns Zhelev's 'Interference'

AU0404174694 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 4 Apr 94 p 16

[Andrey Lukanov commentary: "Does the Constitution Apply to the President?"]

[Text] Loyal to his bad habits, the president of the Republic again chose a foreign audience in order to tell tales, about which he would again probably have to make clarifications to the Bulgarian public. Indeed, the things are clear even without any clarifications, because the basic theses that the president recently expressed in London continue to specifically express the same thoughts of his he has been trying to impose on our public in the last few months. According to Zhelyu Zhelev it is not the prime minister, Lyuben Berov, who is sick, but rather the Bulgarian Government and the formula on which it is based. Therefore, according to him, it is necessary to change the formula, find a new parliamentary configuration, or go to new elections by the end of the year. He even warned the sovereign Bulgarian voter not to reach out for the red ballot, because if the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] wins the elections it would not know what to do with this victory and could not succeed to form a government.

If those words would have been uttered by another Bulgarian citizen, public figure, or deputy, they would have hardly impressed anyone. Under conditions of political pluralism everyone has the right to an opinion, and the rest can agree or disagree with this opinion. This applies to everyone but the president. Assuming the grave constitutional burden of personifying the unity of the nation, he also assumes the commitment to the people to limit his public statements to the framework of those strictly defined functions and obligations which the constitution prescribes. He does not have the right to jabber everything that comes to his mind, because every word he publicly utters has a political effect which also is the subject of constitutional assessment.

What is disturbing in Zhelyu Zhelev's London revelations? First of all the fact that the president allows himself to determine the date of eventual early elections and engage in reshaping the parliamentary configuration, despite the fact that all this is not a part of his constitutional prerogatives. In this case Zhelev crudely and unceremoniously interfered with the prerogatives of the parliament and the parliamentary forces, which are the only ones empowered by the people to assess the cabinet, approve its composition and policy, and determine its fate. In this case I do not mean to defend the government and its policy, but defend the fundamental and constitutional principles of a parliamentary and not a presidential republic. In this republic the president only has the right of setting new elections if the parliament fails to form a cabinet, rather than the right of expressing an opinion whether there should be new elections and when should they take place, while the hypothetical situation described in detail in the constitution, which allows him to do this, does not exist.

It also is scandalous that the president finds it possible to call his country's cabinet a sick cabinet, and declare the country's legislative and executive powers provisional powers at a moment when difficult and delicate negotiations are being conducted with foreign governments, international institutions, and commercial banks, and decisions of fateful importance for the national economy and the future of the reforms in Bulgaria must be adopted. This is not only a violation of the constitution, but also an act that contradicts Bulgaria's interests. This reminds one very much of 1990, when the political configuration led by Zhelyu Zhelev was prepared to destroy the civic peace in the country in order to prevent the successful completion of the negotiations which the government at that time conducted with the international financial institutions and the Western partners. Now Zhelyu Zhelev decided to speak in London—one of the world's basic financial centers, and thus ensure maximum response to his suggestions.

For some time already Zhelyu Zhelev usurps the right of evaluating one of the legitimate political and parliamentary forces in Bulgaria, supported by no less than one-third of the country's mature citizens. This testifies not only to the lack of political and civic culture, but also to an insurmountable prejudice, which obviously contradicts Zhelev's claim to be the president of all Bulgarians. Instead of reading lectures abroad on the topic of tolerance, the president should grasp his constitutional duties and understand that he could implement his functions of an honest arbiter and guarantor of national unity only if he equally respects all public forces and conducts a tolerant and equal dialogue with them, while at the same time he does not forget even for a moment the limits of his rights and prerogatives. Otherwise he could turn, and indeed he already has turned into a factor of public destabilization and national division. If he heads along this way he alone would relinquish the responsible role that the constitution assigns to him.

I would like to stress again that those infringements of the Constitution are not an accidental matter. They outline a consistent and insistent line of the president, which becomes ever more a threat to the constitutional order in Bulgaria. I will remind the readers of Zhelev's claim that the specific character of the transitional period in the postsocialist states justifies the establishment of a presidential rule. Thus those states would have faced the serious threat of restoring authoritarianism. Let me also remind the readers of his anticonstitutional interference in the progress of the agrarian reform, whose essence it was to restrict "from the top" the rights of the owners of the agrarian land and maximally extend

the life of the liquidation councils, despite their lethal effect on the national economy and the normal supply of the people with acceptably priced foodstuffs. We would hardly forget soon the other anticonstitutional act of the president—his attempt to create parallel structures to lead the Armed Forces outside the legitimate structures envisaged by the basic law, and as a counterbalance to those legitimate structures. Without claiming that we mentioned everything, we could not ignore his comment on the upcoming extraordinary elections, which he made for the national mass media after visiting Professor Berov in the hospital. In addition to its anticonstitutional character, this comment also impressed with its lack of political tact and elementary human ethic.

Those are grave words and harsh conclusions, but the president must hear them, also because his post involves special moral, political, and constitutional responsibilities, and because in the final analysis, we are discussing here the fundamental rules and principles of democracy and the democratic public culture. There was a moment during the president's term of office when the hope emerged that Zhelyu Zhelev would overcome his political bias and would really assert himself as the president of the entire nation, as a uniting figure capable of contributing to overcoming confrontation and asserting civilized social habits. Unfortunately, the last public statements of the president are far from those expectations.

His thesis regarding him being a "president of the transition period" is also insolvent. Obviously, this thesis justifies in his own eyes and the eyes of his advisers his recent and repeated liberties with the constitution. There is not and cannot be a "president of the transition period." We have a legally elected president of the Republic of Bulgaria, whose functions and rights are clearly spelled out in Chapter 4 of the Bulgarian Constitution. If Zhelyu Zhelev does not want to comply with the text of the Constitution by which he was sworn in, the National Assembly would have no other choice except invoking Article 103 of the Bulgarian Constitution, which envisages the procedure of terminating the presidential mandate ahead of time.

Ministry To Set Up 'Fast Deployment Brigade'

LD0504113394 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Czech Defense Ministry has decided to form its own fast deployment unit. Our correspondent Milan Repka reports:

Defense Minister Antonin Baudys has said that a fast deployment brigade will deal with, above all, the solution of sudden crisis situations at any place in the Czech Republic, including situations where the state is under threat.

According to Baudys, this unit should have about 3,000 men and should represent some kind of model of the future Czech Army. The equipment of this brigade should be compatible with the equipment of NATO countries, both in the case of hand weapons and helicopters.

As Baudys went on to say, he and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus agreed on putting domestic arms production first, while taking its quality strictly into account.

Another step of the ministry within the framework of transformation of the Czech Army is the necessary reduction of a large number of commander posts. In this connection, Baudys designated the basic principle of this transformation—above all, orientation toward recruiting new officers to achieve the aim of the Army service having to become attractive for high quality people.

Over 30% Cut in Military Aircraft in 1994

LD0404183094 Prague CT 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The number of [Czech Army] military aircraft will be reduced this year by more than 30 percent. General Pavel Strubl, Air Force and air-defense inspector, said that this step had to be taken by the Czech Army as part of its transformation. [passage omitted]

Government's View of Minority Rights Examined

94CH0190A Prague RESPEKT in Czech 20 Feb 94 p 4

[Article by Jindrich Sidlo: "A Fresh Wind Across Europe: The Czech Government Rejects the Collective Rights of Minorities"]

[Text] "In the Czech Republic, basic human rights are observed consistently. Therefore, there is no problem with ethnic minorities here," states Minister Igor Nemec (ODS [Civic Democratic Party]), chairman of the government council for national and ethnic groups. The "Recapitulation of the Government's Attitude Toward the Issues of Ethnic Minorities," which was debated by the Cabinet last Wednesday, is clearly based on this conviction. The issue is a basic document for the given area. The Czech Republic does not have a special law on ethnic minorities, and the relationship with them is not even mentioned in the government's declaration of its agenda. Thus, the adopted doctrine "summarizes and clarifies the government's attitude toward these problems" (Nemec). The material was prepared by the Council for National and Ethnic Groups, where all minorities are represented. Nevertheless, it cannot be said that the text fulfills their hopes 100 percent: At the very least, representatives of the Polish, German, and partly also Slovak minorities had expected more. Nemec's document defines a minority as "an association of persons who permanently live in the CR [Czech Republic], are citizens of that country, yet share ethnic, cultural, and language characteristics that differ from the majority of the inhabitants and wish to be considered a minority." In its doctrine, the government guarantees the members of a minority the right to develop their culture, be educated in their mother tongue, unite in their own associations and political parties, use their mother tongue in official relations, and participate in resolving issues concerning minorities. The Cabinet considers all of these rights to be strictly individual rights. Consequently, it does not intend to permit, among other things, different rules to apply to minorities in elections. Only representatives of those minorities whose parties get more than the five-percent minimum may sit in parliament. Considering the number of possible voters, however, none of the present "minority parties" can do this. Therefore, some of their leaders and speakers are striving to bring about a change in attitude.

The first to propose a different election device for minorities was Dana Branna, the representative of the Czech Poles. This occurred at the end of last year during the meeting of the Council for National and Ethnic Groups, and the idea was instantly supported by the former member of the CNR [Czech National Council], Walter Piwerka, from the Assembly of Germans in the CR. "Parliament deals with a large number of laws that could affect minorities, and yet the delegates may have insufficient information and could easily overlook some dangers" is Dr. Branna's explanation for her action. "Our representatives could watch out for such dangers and point them out." According to Piwerka, the representatives of minorities who hold parliamentary seats could "influence all kinds of issues and also prevent all kinds of disinformation in the present transition period, when a civic society is being formed in our country, but the Czech nation and the minorities are still burdened by nationalism." Nada Vokusova, who represents the Slovak Community in the Council, also agrees with Dr. Branna's proposal. According to Jozef Horal, of the rival Slovak Democratic Alliance, it is "absolute nonsense." This would totally deny the principles of a civic society. "The Slovaks in the Czech lands are voluntarily living in the diaspora and not in a ghetto," says J. Horal. He is convinced that, during the next elections, almost every party will place Slovaks on their list of candidates: According to unofficial data, the Slovak minority in

Bohemia and Moravia now numbers 600,000 people, which constitutes a sizable electoral potential. According to Czech experts, the disagreement with a "ration" for parliamentary seats is more than the simple attempt to keep a few unfathomable voices out of parliament. "Collective rights, which include such demands as the demand for a seat in parliament on the basis of adherence to a specific national or ethnic group, is often linked to demands for autonomy in the areas of education, administration, and territory," says Hana Fristenska, of the Secretariat of the Council. "Furthermore, the right to a seat signals that minorities need special protection. Therefore, if one takes a civic approach, representatives of all definable groups—for example, invalids or homosexuals—should theoretically have a seat in parliament. On the whole, one could say that collective rights are political in character, while individual rights are a matter of the legal protection of the individual." However, the chairman of the movement Coexistencia-Souziti [Coexistence], Stanislaw Gawlik, states that the government's attitude toward minorities does not conform with international conventions, which the CR has joined. "According to the European charter on the rights of minority groups, minorities cannot be defined as an aggregate of individuals. On the contrary, collective rights are mentioned. The charter clearly states that minorities should participate in power at all levels in elected agencies," says Gawlik. The answer to whether the Czech legal code adequately protects against discrimination against all minorities was to be provided by a special analysis, which the council intended to commission in the fall of last year. Subsequently, however, the task proved to be too demanding and expensive, and the idea was dropped. Minister Nemec admits that, when preparing the materials, the government was not inspired by any foreign model, but, in contrast to Gawlik, he considers this to be an advantage: "We have the opportunity of letting a fresh wind blow across Europe."

Molnar's Presence at Moscow Congress Condemned

LD0304204394 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1930 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Marian Andel, deputy of the Slovak National Party [SNS], has told a news agency that he was not aware that the leadership of the SNS had sent Juraj Molnar, deputy chairman of the party, to the World Slavic Congress, which was set up in Moscow at the Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

Juraj Molnar, together with other foreign guests, sat in the presidium of the aforementioned World Slavic Congress where Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democrats, suggested setting up an East European community of Slavic peoples reaching from the Adriatic to the Kuriles.

Pavol Hagyari, chairman of the Democratic Party, said that the participation of SNS Deputy Chairman Juraj Molnar in Zhirinovskiy's party congress harms Slovakia's already bad reputation. He noted that this step is a clear indication of the political thinking of the highest representatives of the purified SNS and its closest partner, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS].

Ivan Duris, chairman of the Republican Party, said that, even if the participation of Molnar in the Moscow Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia is an internal SNS affair, such contact with a nationalistically oriented party is unsuitable. He said that it appears that the Russian Liberal Democrats will cooperate with the SNS in the future. However, this is not a positive signal for foreign countries.

SNS: Molnar Not Sent by Party

LD0404173494 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Slovak National Party [SNS] did not send its deputy chairman, Juraj Molnar, to the fifth Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party in Moscow. This was stated by SNS Chairman Jan Slota in an interview with TASR today. He said that Molnar had left as an observer for the world congress of Slav Orthodox and Christian nations with the consent of the SNS executive but without authorization to deliver any kind of message.

According to Jan Slota, the invitation to the congress of Slavs did not mention the Fifth Congress of the Russian Liberal Democrats.

The SNS chairman stressed that the SNS has not made any contacts with Zhirinovskiy's party nor has it the intention to do so in the future.

Pittner Views Fight Against Organized Crime

AU0104175594 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Ladislav Pittner by Juraj Handzo; place and date not given: "Peaceful Elections, Safe Streets"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Handzo] Organized crime has become a reality and is a very serious problem in Slovakia. How do you view the bill on investigation and punishment for engaging in various forms of organized crime, which was recently drafted by the prosecutor general?

[Pittner] I welcome the initiative of the prosecutor general. The fight against organized crime requires the utilization of adequate tools. The new bill would allow the police to use methods that have not been used in our country for several decades. I mean the protection of witnesses, for example, to avoid the danger of the Mafia exacting revenge. It seems to be necessary to establish a group of undercover agents to penetrate criminal organizations. This would not only secure their activity in the fight against organized crime but also protect them. Apart from these measures, which could be implemented after the law against organized law is passed, we would like to initiate additional changes in the legal system, which would help improve the quality of police activity.

[Handzo] What do you specifically have in mind?

[Pittner] We are facing the task of redrafting the Criminal Code and Law so as to make the police less burdened by bureaucracy and not obliged to document "trivial" cases as much as serious crimes. We must redraft the law because the Criminal Code and Law, which has undergone so many amendments, has become so muddled that it is very difficult for the police and other bodies to understand.

[Handzo] Economic crimes have become a serious problem, growing at an unprecedented pace....

[Pittner] At the first regular meeting of the government, I provided information on economic crime. It has become obvious that, as a consequence of abusing the so-called old block on the clearing account between the Czech and the Slovak Republics, Slovakia incurred losses of more than 1 billion korunas [Sk]. Large transfers of finances to foreign countries through branch companies have gone on to a large extent and have caused damage to the Slovak Republic amounting to Sk1 billion. This is why we want to pay particular attention to economic crime. I expect that the passage of the law on the fight against organized crime will open more possibilities to us in that direction.

[Handzo] Many activities in Slovakia that have the character of organized crime are directly connected with the activity of foreign nationals, particularly from the countries of the former USSR and former Yugoslavia. Are you considering tightening up the conditions regulating the stay of foreigners on our territory or introducing measures that would make illegal immigration more difficult?

[Pittner] We have been watching the activity of foreign mafias on our territory for many years. They always penetrate here in waves. First, they usually establish a basis here that works legally, while creating room for the arrival of other people. They come here legally or illegally and are directly engaged in organized criminal activities. As a rule,

they try to recruit our people, so that, if they are exposed, Slovak citizens are prosecuted and not the real organizers.

There is a widespread opinion among the public that introducing visa requirements would be the most efficient measure to counter the activity of foreign nationals. I believe, however, that such a measure is not needed at the moment. People who are committing said criminal acts would certainly find a way to circumvent the visa requirement. We are expecting a greater effect from the bill on the fight against organized crime, other laws, and the existing legal regulations, which allow us to adopt certain measures in cooperation with intelligence bodies.

Official Skeptical of Partnership for Peace

LD0504114894 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] Poland has no chance to join NATO in the near future. This is an opinion expressed by Longin Pastusiak, deputy chairman of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission, who returned from Washington a few days ago. According to the professor, the Partnership for Peace program can be treated as the last stop before NATO.

[Begin Pastusiak recording] The program does not provide guarantees of security for us. Consequently, Article 5, the key article of the North Atlantic Treaty, which declares that aggression against a NATO member state means aggression against the entire NATO organization, will not apply to Poland. However, the states that will be included in the Partnership for Peace program will be covered by Article 4, which envisages that, in a situation of conflict or when Poland's security is threatened, the NATO countries would hold a meeting and carry out consultations. Such consultations might lead to military action, but it is not said clearly. [end recording]

Daily Views 'Predictable' Steps by Walesa

WS0504121394 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Kazimierz Groblewski: "President—Parliament, Coalition, Government; Conflict Over Everything"]

[Excerpts] There are increasingly fewer issues in which the president, parliament, and the government are harmoniously cooperating with one another. The Constitution, the concordat, the deputy ministerial posts in the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the new Popiwek [tax on excessive wage increases] Law, the vacant post of the deputy prime minister and finance minister, the National Council of Radio and Television [KRRiT]—these are the most important areas of the current conflict. [passage omitted]

The next predictable disputes between the president and the parliament along with the coalition will be over KRRiT, when the report of the council is voted on and if the Constitutional Tribunal decides that Walesa did not have the right to recall Marek Markiewicz. Another controversial issue may be the concordat, if the Sejm rejects it, first of all with the votes of the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD].

A storm will be caused by the president's decision concerning the budget, regardless of what the president finally decides. If he vetoes the budget law, the coalition will accuse him of impeding reforms, populism, destructive activities. If he signs this law, he will cause a storm himself because he will want to justify the decision—to Solidarity, for instance. The foretaste of the storm can already be felt when Walesa criticizes the coalition for not implementing its preelection promises and for deceiving the people.

Now and then one of the coalition politicians...

Will Try To Frighten the President

...with prospects of limiting his powers—that is, something he does not like listening to the most. The president will repay in kind with threats of earlier elections—that is, he will hit the most sensitive spot of the parliament members and the coalition. On this issue, however, probably neither party will take any specific steps in the near future. The coalition seems to be aware of the fact that an attempt to limit Walesa's powers would mean total war.

In the Thursday [31 March] interview for the PAP press agency, Walesa implied very clearly that, in such a situation, he would ask the people to decide. "Then I would tell the people: You fought for Walesa, we fought for a president, and now we can see a monopoly of the communist type being established. Do you agree to that? Are you not afraid that communism is coming back in the way power is wielded and that it wants to exclude the president—not Walesa but the president? Therefore, if you do not wake up now, if you do not make your deputies retreat from that, I will not guarantee further stability processes."

In the future, we may witness a conflict over who should carry out Poland's foreign policy. Lech Walesa likes to make decisions in this area himself, and the activeness of the parliament members who willingly travel abroad is beginning to irritate him.

Walesa is not directing his criticism at the government or the prime minister. If he vetoes the new popiwek law, it will be a propaganda blow delivered to the parliament, to the coalition that passed this law and not to the government, which prepared it and forwarded it to the Sejm. If the post of deputy prime minister and finance minister is still vacant, it is the result of the game played between Walesa and the coalition, not the government.

It Is Not the Government That Is the Evil Spirit

...but the parliament and the coalition, or, in fact, the SLD. This does not mean that he protects the government. The reason for this is more banal: He may gain more, in terms of prestige, in a war with the parliament or with the SLD; one of the reasons for this is the fact that the government is for the time being not perceived as one "close-knit" team. Now, it is known that a good opponent is one that is clear and specific.

CEFTA Set for 1998; Terms Viewed

94EP0053A Warsaw GAZETA PRZEMYSLOWA I HANDLOWA in Polish No 10, 8-14 Mar 94 p 7

[Article by Aleksander Malkiewicz: "CEFTA—Past and Future; A Market Like the EC's?"]

[Text] "In the next two years, we shall be repaying our roughly $87 million debt to the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the form of construction services and coal and equipment shipments," declared Maciej Lesny at a press conference. Lesny is an under secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Cooperation and the head of the Polish negotiating mission. He made this declaration following his return from the Prague meeting of the Joint Committee of CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement signed on 21 December 1992 in Krakow by the Czech Republic, the Polish Republic, the Slovak Republic, and the Hungarian Republic). Under that agreement, a free trade zone is to be established among these countries by 1998. "An understanding to hasten the liberalization of trade among Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary will be reached by the end of April or the beginning of May of this year," Minister Lesny emphasized.

The gradual abolition of tariffs among the member countries of CEFTA, which represents a market of 65 million consumers, is intended to increase mutual trade, whose volume at present does not exceed $1 billion. Accordingly, the Prague meeting resolved to reduce by one-third the duties on industrial goods as early as on 1 July 1994. This is in the spirit of the provisions of the CEFTA agreement.

Unlike the agreements with the EC and EFTA [European Free Trade Association], the Central European agreement is based on the principle of equivalence and reciprocal advantages, meaning that all of the parties are to benefit equally from liberalized trade terms.

The agreement between Poland and its southern neighbor states reflects a compromise reached in the course of long and often dramatic negotiations. The main points of contention concerned the tariff abolition timetables and the division of manufactured goods into three groups among our countries, with separate duty-slashing schedules for each of these groups. Relatively speaking, the boldest attitude in this matter was represented, as the deputy minister explained, by Czechoslovakia, which has been levying customs duties of as little as several percent since 1991. In its turn, the position of Hungary, which has also been applying relatively low (though higher than the Czechoslovak) duty rates, was dictated by the desire to match these rates to those specified in its agreements with the EC and EFTA, which provide for completing the Hungarian reductions of duty rates by 1 January 2001. To Poland, which has during these negotiations been levying the highest duty rates among CEFTA members, an earlier date was acceptable because, as is known, duties on manufactured goods deriving from the EC and EFTA will be, with a few exceptions, abolished by 1 January 1999.

In effect, duties on the first group of merchandise, the so-called List A, were to be immediately abolished on the effective date of the agreement—that is, as of 1 May 1993. In general, that group comprises relatively unprocessed goods (among other things, raw materials and semifinished products). As a result, and owing to the even earlier applicable zero duty rates, approximately 50-60 percent of Polish exports to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary are duty-exempt. As for the second group of merchandise, the so-called List B, which comprises goods of medium susceptibility [to foreign competition], the related duties will be reduced in three equal installments of one-third each during the period between 1 January 1995 and 1 January 1997. The so-called List C includes goods most susceptible to foreign competition, such as textile, metal, automotive, electronic, and similar products. The related duties will be reduced to zero in seven installments during the period from 1 January 1995 to 1 January 2001.

The CEFTA member countries also pledged themselves to gradually abolish the existing nontariff restraints on trade (such as concessions, import quotas, import and export prohibitions) and to refrain from introducing any new such restraints in mutual trade.

The problem of farm products received special treatment under CEFTA. No member country was prepared to fully open its agricultural and food market, and, hence, liberalization in that domain extended to only a few commodities, mostly in quantitative terms. In the case of agricultural products, the existing regulations remain binding, and new ones, protecting against foreign competition, may be introduced.

The text of CEFTA also provides for a gradual attainment of world standards (developed under GATT) by the parties thereto upon employing economic instruments distorting [as published] free competition in world trade.

This concerns, among other things, nondiscriminating domestic taxation, policy on state monopolies, rules of competition and governmental economic aid to enterprises, manufacturing orders, and antidumping measures.

Strictly speaking, CEFTA is not an integrative agreement to create an organization similar to that of the European Community, the European Union [EU], or EFTA. It does not provide for permanent bodies such as the EU Commission or the EFTA Secretariat.

This approach is dictated by the idea that an excessive institutionalization of economic cooperation may engender a mistaken belief in the political and economic self-sufficiency of the countries of Central Europe.

The more than a year that has passed since the provisions of CEFTA began to be implemented is, in the opinion of experts, too short a period to assess in detail its effect on the structure and volume of trade. But it can be stated that, even now, our country is deriving measurable advantages: In 1993, its balance of trade with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary was positive.

Although these countries, taken together, account for merely 7-8 percent of our foreign trade, they rank among the 10 biggest Polish trade partners.

Even as CEFTA was being signed, the signatories provided for the possibility of modifying its provisions. Their concurrently signed joint political declaration of 21 December 1992 mentions the desire to hasten and broaden the liberalization of trade beyond the terms of the original agreement. Since last March, the partners have been discussing revisions of reciprocal concessions that will probably result, after 1 January 1998, in abolishing a definite majority of duties on manufactured goods as well as in marked reductions of duties on and increases in quotas for farm products.

Moreover, during the negotiations in Prague, it was decided to advance to 1 July 1994 from 1 January 1995 the commencement of the abolition of duties. Merchandise on List A will become nondutiable as early as at the beginning of next year. The duty rates on merchandise on List B will be reduced in three stages: on 1 July 1994, on 1 January 1996, and on 1 January 1997. Trade in susceptible [to foreign competition] merchandise (metal products, textiles, some chemicals) will be liberalized in four stages.

The text of CEFTA allows its signatories to conclude agreements on free trade with other countries, as well. According to Minister Lesny, such agreements are to be concluded [between Poland and] Turkey, Romania, and Israel.

Negotiations with the Baltic republics are also under way. For the time being, a highly liberalized flow of goods and capital is to be possible within the next year or so among the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. This should contribute to a more rapid integration with the West European economic system and accelerate our membership in the EC and the EU.

Daily Reports, Comments on Privatization

WS0504115194 Warsaw GAZETA SWIATECZNA in Polish 2-4 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by "u.s." and commentary by Adam Michnik: "Simple Program of Recommunization"]

[Text] One of the side effects of the Mass Privatization Program [PPP] will probably be good-paying jobs for the economic dignitaries of the Polish People's Republic [PRL], instead of young and well-educated people, as it was planned.

The first stage of the selection of the candidates for the members of the National Investment Funds has already been completed. These funds will manage a few hundred companies that have decided on privatization under the PPP.

The selection is being carried out by a commission dominated by people appointed by Prime Minister Pawlak. The commission has defined the selection criteria and has not agreed to reveal them.

As we have learned unofficially, an especially important factor is "long work at a managerial post." This criterion is met only by former heads of the socialist economy.

"It is not important whether a guy has led a company to bankruptcy or not. What is crucial is the fact that he managed it," we were told by a cooperator of the Selection Commission. "This weakens the chances of young and well-educated people."

"When the Law on Mass Privatization was being passed, there were rumors that the posts in supervisory boards would be occupied first of all by well-educated and young people," we learned from an economist linked to the commission. "However, the commission has worked out a code that favors people with strong connections with PRL companies. They simply score more points only because they managed the giant socialist companies."

We did not like such discrimination: when the citizens were divided into "equal" (nonpartisan) and "more equal" (members of the Polish United Workers Party and the satellite parties).

This is why we rejected decommunization ideas as contrary to the logic of a democratic state. Therefore, it is with utmost concern that we have heard about the attempt to recommunize the state by giving privileges to the people of the communist apparatus of power.

This is inadmissible. This must have negative consequences not only for the Polish economy but also for those who conceived these ideas.

'KGB' Linked to Foreign Businesses, 'Petromin'

AU0104152594 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 29 Mar 94 p 3

[Dan Damian report: "KGB Agents Are Crossing Romania From One End to the Other"]

[Text] After 1990, in addition to Romanian entrepreneurs, a large number of foreigners, especially from neighboring countries, came to set up commercial companies. A number of various companies were set up either with entirely private capital or in association with the Romanian state.

The majority of these are to be found in Bucharest, Moldavia, and Dobrogea. It is interesting that between 1991 and 1993 various "hotel" businesses were set up, which are closed to the public, offering their services exclusively to certain categories of foreign citizens. Just such a hotel is to be found in the city of Galati. If one, as a Romanian citizen, asks for a room there, one will be politely refused with the words "We are sorry, but our hotel is closed to the general public."

Moreover, certain analyses show that beginning with the last 10 days in 1993 and over the first months of 1994 the number of foreign "tourists" coming from neighboring countries trebled, and more than half of them have remained in Romania for "business." Similarly, December 1993 represents a record for the spas in the Prahova Valley regarding the influx of foreign "tourists" coming from neighboring countries to ski on the slopes of Clabucet-Plecare and Cota 2,000.

From among the personalities involved in such businesses we can mention Eduard Hiznichenko, the owner of the Cominet Ltd. company at 57 Rozelor Street, in the town of Odorheiul Secuiesc, Anatoliy Ivanov, general director of the Biisik Ltd. Trading Co., and the Technotours Ltd. company, registered under the number J 40/6788/1991 in the Commercial Register, represented by Elisabeta Ana Stefanescu.

Is "KGB the most active intelligence service working on Romania's territory?" [quote from a 29 March news conference of Romanian Intelligence Service Director Virgil Magureanu].

Role in Fleet Scandal Explained

AU0104170194 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 28 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Dan Andronic and Radu Tudor: "KGB Is Behind the Petromin-Forum Affair"]

[Text] EVENIMENTUL ZILEI has entered into possession of a number of sensational photographs proving that both Adrian Nastase, current executive chairman of the PDSR [Social Democracy Party of Romania and Traian Chebeleu, counselor of President Ion Iliescu, felt honored to be able to hold talks with a person whom now they reject, namely the Greek shipping tycoon Ioannis Alafouzos. [Article is accompanied by two photographs, one showing, among other persons, Nastase and Alafouzos, with the caption: "Adrian Nastase held talks lasting an hour and a half with the Greek shipping tycoon Ioannis Alafouzos. In those days they used to be friends;" the other photograph shows Alafouzos shaking hands with Chebeleu, with the caption: "Traian Chebeleu, all honey, amiably shaking hands with Ioannis Alafouzos, whom, after a short while, he would be denigrating!"]

The photographs were taken in 1990, at the official opening of the Ermis company in Bucharest, when Adrian Nastase and Traian Chebeleu chatted with Greek shipping tycoon Ioannis Alafouzos. The difference between 1990 and 1994 is that in 1990 Iannis Alafouzos was one of the supporters of the Mitsotakis government, which was very close to President Ion Iliescu's heart. The moment the Greek shipping tycoon switched sides and began to support Andreas Papandreou, the most bitter adversary of Konstandinos Mitsotakis, both Adrian Nastase and Traian Chebeleu changed their tune.

According to last-minute data in the possession of EVENIMENTUL ZILEI, one of the intelligence services—definitely not the SRI [Romanian Intelligence Service]—has elaborated a report that established that the KGB is massively involved in the famed case of the attempted sale of the Romanian strategic fleet, also known as the Petromin-Forum Maritime affair.

As we already mentioned, the photographs date back to 1990. About that year, in issue No. 533 of our daily, soccer player Danut Lupu stated that he had to return to Greece because of the pressure that had been exerted on him by the [Romanian] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led at the time by Adrian Nastase. He explained having been pressured by the fact that "shipping tycoon Vardinoianis, owner of the Greek Panathinaikos soccer club, had large business operations in Romania."

The aforementioned intelligence service report proves the incontestible links between the Greek shipping tycoon Vardinoianis and the Moscow intelligence services, especially the KGB, on the orders of which he initiated a massive operation intended to purchase the 96 vessels belonging to Petromin. Those 96 vessels represented an essential component of our national security system.

The sum of $125 million with which the Greek shipping tycoon Stelianos Katounis was to buy the Petromin fleet comes, according to the cited report, from KGB funds, via shipping tycoon Vardinoianis.

We would like to remind our readers that the following persons were ardent supporters of striking a deal with the Greeks in the famous attempted sale of the Romanian strategic fleet: Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu; Paul Teodoru, former minister of transportation, currently counselor of the prime minister; Lieutenant General Marin Pancea, former presidential counselor and former secretary of the Country's Supreme Defense

Council. According to information revealed by other dailies, the whole affair was closely supervised by presidential counselor Colonel General Vasile Ionel.

Nastase Emerges as PDSR's 'New Leader'

AU0504083094 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Mihai Mihailescu: "Troubled Waters"]

[Text] Slowly but surely, the erosion of the current power's popularity is reaching to the very top at Cotroceni, despite the fact that President Ion Iliescu has made fewer public appearances of late—as if the presidential institution in our country is like the one in the democratic countries, namely totally impartial vis-a-vis the political scene. The decrease in Ion Iliescu's popularity is an exceptional sign for our nation, which has been considered as dulled by 50 years of communism.

If Ion Iliescu wavers, then the power situation is truly serious, because the current president has more than close links with the Romanian Intelligence Service [SRI] and the justice structure and is trying to achieve the same thing with the Army, and also because the executive branch is nothing but Cotroceni's direct extension. Ion Iliescu is also supported by another extremely important force: the great magnates of the market economy, who come from the ranks of the former nomenklatura and Securitate.

There are troubled waters in the Iliescu bloc. It is not so much the people's attitude that weakens Iliescu as the trend toward a split within the Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR]. It is obvious that quite a few people in the ruling party have realized by now in which direction the wind is blowing and that we are on the threshold of a process of the society's normalization.

These people, who are labeled the "reforming wing," are not interested in going into the opposition but rather in distancing themselves from a conservative power which, sooner or later, will give in. The crisis within the PDSR has been accentuated by the pitiable Vacaroiu government—a straw cabinet run from Cotroceni. As a matter of fact, we are facing here a double crisis of disgrace and conceit.

The antidote to this crisis, namely the emergence (creation) of a new leader, [PDSR Executive President] Adrian Nastase, is very interesting.

Nastase began his mission by trying to attenuate the dissent within the party. However, his chances of success are very small, because it is difficult, if not impossible, to harmonize conservatism with reformism. Hence the dissonance occasionally struck by Nastase. In the morning he makes reformist statements on the radio, while in the evening he makes conservative statements on the television. However, all this has little impact on the population, which is politically untrained.

The second step by Nastase was to trigger off the electoral campaign for early elections. The intelligent PDSR executive president realized that these elections can no longer be avoided. Adrian Nastase is well aware of the significance of power at the local level, as far as elections are concerned. The ruling party needs the local administration. The opposition's mayors are beginning to receive their dismissal. The idea of early local elections is being spread around and gaining ground. Even if the power does not manage to lay hold of the mayoral positions, it will manage to intimidate the electorate by implying that the power is very strong and that if the opposition wants early legislative elections, then the power can also impose early local elections.

All this movement to create a new leader is fascinating. Of course, Ion Iliescu will often make public appearances alongside Adrian Nastase, thus drawing the attention of the electorate to the fact that he is endorsing Adrian Nastase. At the same time, Mr. Nastase displays an appealing seriousness, compared to Ion Iliescu's shallow smile. The moment will come when he will also distance himself from certain insignificant concepts of the president.

"The old" Iliescu will then pass onto Adrian Nastase the "secret keys" of the relations with the SRI and with the force of the former nomenklatura, turned great capitalists overnight. Anyhow, the current government must be preserved until the elections.

Why did such a move as the creation of a new leader become necessary? It is true that Ion Iliescu's image is sinking, but the elections are legislative, not presidential. Here lies the PDSR's subtlety—the party won the previous elections thanks to its leader. It is trying the same thing again, only this time the leader will not be the outworn Ion Iliescu but Adrian Nastase. Therefore, the PDSR is trying to win over a new electorate; if the party splits, then those who leave will not be able to take with them part of the electorate.

We wonder whether Nastase will also distance himself from Ion Iliescu, if he is successful. After all, Mr. Adrian Nastase is an intelligent politician. Will he observe the guarantees he gave? Or do they have something on him to keep him on a leash?

As for us, we must vote. The waters are troubled and they hide all kinds of fish. Some of them are sharks, with wide open mouths....

Data on Weapons Possession, Confiscation

94P2053A Bucharest AZI in Romanian 8 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with Lieutenant Colonel George Toroiman, head of the Directorate for Weapons, Explosives, and Toxic Substances, by Luiza Cristina; place and date not given: "Public Order Can Be Ensured by Existing Laws"]

[Text] It could be that the name of the Directorate of Weapons, Explosives and Toxic Substances might say

too little or, to the other extreme, might say too much to us. The exposing and punishing of persons who illegally possess, manufacture, or bring weapons into the country, the confiscation of the weapons, and the issuance of permits to carry guns are activities under the jurisdiction of this directorate. In 1993 some 1,813 weapons of different types and calibers were confiscated, along with 72,062 bullets. The border police confiscated 209 weapons and 8,833 bullets. Last year, according to the records of the directorate, 50,000 persons possessed weapons legally. Some 13,561 of these people lost the right to carry weapons, either because of changes in their behavior (after they received the permit) or because of their failure to use or keep the weapons properly which resulted in accidents.

[Cristina] First, I would like you to describe the activity of the Directorate for Weapons, Explosives, and Toxic Substances.

[Toroiman] Our directorate is concerned with ensuring that laws on weapons and ammunition are respected and with meting out punishment for violations. Regulations on weapons and ammunition are stipulated in Decree No. 368/1971. Therefore, we are first involved in ensuring that regulations on weapons and ammunition are observed.

[Cristina] What is involved in this first objective of the activity of the directorate?

[Toroiman] We must say, first of all, that a person can possess a weapon on the basis of a permit issued by our directorate. Hunting weapons can be possessed only by members of the General Association of Amateur Hunters and Fishermen. Two attempts were made to establish some phantom associations which claimed: "We are independent." They did not even have the name of an athletic association in their title. I do not know and I cannot imagine what they were thinking about. Do they think that they are professional hunters and that this is the Siberian taiga?

[Cristina] What are the other categories of weapons and who can possess them?

[Toroiman] Rifles are another category of weapons. They are possessed by marksmen who, in addition to these weapons, can also possess other types of weapons, either those which are received for various sports competitions or those which are purchased for personal use. The possession of these weapons is legal and the possessors present proof that they are marksmen or have permits to possess weapons for competitions. There are also panoply weapons which are part of weapons collections. Persons who have such collections have to satisfy the legal requirements for possessing such weapons. One thing should be said at the very beginning: Weapons are very dangerous and a person who wants to possess one must exhibit irreproachable behavior. You cannot give a weapon to a person who has spent several years in prison for robbery. That is the way it must be! Or to a perosn who causes a scandal in the apartment building, beats his wife, or who knows what.

Another category of weapons is that of weapons used for personal defense and security. They can be possessed by persons who exercise state authority or some other important public activity. A person who wants to possess a weapon might be a senator, but if it is determined that he is in no danger of being attacked, then there is no reason why he should carry a weapon. The last category of weapons consists of those possessed by juridical persons, such as theaters, movie theaters, the State Circus, as well as weapons for guarding economic units (enterprises, private companies). In this area, the economic units send a request to the police and then the guard plan for the unit is discussed. The police specialist in the guard systems makes a decision in regard to the guard posts which require the weapons. Then the persons serving as guards who will be carrying the service weapons will be notified. The weapons will be rented from the police for 28,000 lei a year—a rather small sum.

[Cristina] Where does the ammunition for these weapons come from?

[Toroiman] Also from us. At cost, of course. Returning to the objectives of our directorate, we can also include the authorization of a person to bear arms and the periodic examination of the person's behavior. If any negative aspects should appear, then the authorization can be withdrawn automatically. Let me stress the fact that the identification of persons illegally possessing weapons and ammunition occupies first place in our activity. The vast majority of those who possess weapons illegally are involved in poaching. Others have murder in mind.

[Cristina] Are there any other categories of weapons?

[Toroiman] Those remaining from the interwar period. They are found by the people under different circumstances.

We are concerned with preventing and combatting the illegal importation of weapons into the country, by Romanians or foreigners. The customs organs are a great help to us in exposing people who bring weapons into the country illegally. They are the first and also the last ones to carry out inspections.

[Cristina] The disadvantage of this inspection is that it is carried out at random.

[Toroiman] This is true, and violators profit from this fact when they pass through crowded border control points where the probability that they will be apprehended is much smaller.

[Cristina] So the exposure of the violators depends upon the mettle of the border guard?

[Toroiman] On the mettle of the border guard and the utilization of different techniques at the border points.

Strict inspections are carried out at the Otopeni and Kogalniceanu airports. Each piece of baggage goes through an X-ray apparatus which provides a clear image of the contents.

[Cristina] How many weapons does the Directorate of Weapons, Explosives, and Toxic Substances have?

[Toroiman] Each officer has a pistol. Just like each military man in the country.

[Cristina] During the 1989 events, weapons were taken from the headquarters of the police. How many were taken?

[Toroiman] The total number of weapons taken is 1,897, if we take into account the weapons taken in June 1990, when the police headquarters of the capital was attacked.

[Cristina] How many weapons have remained in the possession of the population?

[Toroiman] Some 356. If they do not hand them over, out of fear that they will be interrogated or whatever else is on their minds, we would be happy to find them thrown over the fence into the yard of the police department. We do not care any more about the persons who had the weapons. We just want them to hand them over so we can recover them.

[Cristina] Are there any weapons trafficking networks operating on the territory of Romania?

[Toroiman] No. So far we have not run into this.

[Cristina] Does the current legislation help the directorate in its activity of stopping violations of the law?

[Toroiman] In my personal opinion, the penalties are not severe enough to prevent illegal manifestations. Authority in the field of law and order can be ensured by severe legal requirements.

[Cristina] How many people work in the Directorate of Weapons, Explosives, and Toxic Substances?

[Toroiman] Each county police department has a weapons office. We are not few in number, nor are we an army.

[Cristina] What do you want the most in the future?

[Toroiman] More severe penalties and a stricter system for authorizing the possession of weapons. If we think about it, as long as the state has organs which ensure law and order, why would the people need to possess firearms? The people can defend themselves by alarm systems. Weapons in the possession of the people create a state of fantastic danger. I assure you that youth, especially, would get firearms if they could. At any rate, we are not in the situation of having guns in our homes. It would be good for citizens to closely collaborate with the police—in the best meaning of the word. They should help us to do our work. And I would also like the law which we proposed and introduced in Parliament to be passed as quickly as possible.

Serb Forces Break Through Gorazde Defense Lines

LD0404205294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by correspondent Fahrudin Behic]

[Text] Unfortunately I have to send you bad news from Gorazde. After 10,000 shells of all calibers, after superhuman fighting and unprecedented heroism of the defenders, the defense line has been breached in the southern part of the battlefield on the right bank of the Drina. The situation is exceptionally dramatic, while fresh columns of refugees are moving into the town center from villages on the right bank.

The villages of Ahmovici, Uhotici, Kodzaga Polje, and some other villages from this area have been emptied of their inhabitants. Many civilians have been killed. Those who have succeeded in getting out in the face of strong aggressor forces, are trying to cross to the left bank and have somehow get into the town. In the town, however, the situation is extremely dramatic.

At about 1900, artillery shelling intensified. Howitzer shells are being used to systematically target houses one by one in Vitkovici, (Vaci), and (Vinarici). Many people have been killed. It is not possible to get information from the military hospital because everyone is involved there in giving help to the injured.

Infantry attacks also intensified at 2000 on the southern approaches to the town. No one knows what things will look like and what will happen in the night ahead. If anyone wants to help Gorazde they should do so immediately. For many people here tomorrow will be too late.

Serbs Attack With Tanks, Infantry

AU0504105394 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by Fahrudin Behic from Gorazde]

[Text] [words indistinct] and the other medical staff in the Gorazde war hospital cannot manage to give aid to all the casualties. There are lines of wounded in front of the operating theater and the improvised medical facilities are full, while the chetnik rampage continues.

Since this morning over a thousand shells have landed on (Batici) alone. The attacks are intensifying from several directions, and the aggressor is again trying to break through with tanks from Ustipraca and (Nežici). The chetniks are firing howitzers, multiple rocket launchers, and mortars of all calibers from (Kotovo), Djakovici, Kozara, (Paljika), (Preljuca), Carevo Guvno, from every hill they control. On the right bank of the Drina their infantry attacks intensified before dawn. At 1025 a major tank and infantry attack was la[illegible]ched north from (Kopaci). The battles are [word indistinct] and the strength of the artillery support from the chetnik forces is unprecedented here.

The situation is by far the worst on the free Rogatica territory. Hundreds of tonnes of steel have landed here over the last 10 hours. Despite their losses, the chetniks are intensifying their attacks by introducing fresh forces. All 50 tanks are in full use, as are armored transporters, combat helicopters, and some 10,000 murderers of all kinds from the four chetnik corps. Their intention is obvious: They want the Herzegovina Corps, the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, the Drina Corps, and the Uzice Corps to link up in Gorazde. They are not much concerned that Gorazde has been made a UN Protected Area with Resolution 824. True, during this morning's flights by two NATO planes over the area, the intensity of their attacks did let up, only to be resumed with even greater ferocity after the aircraft had gone.

This is Fahrudin Becic reporting from the Information Service of the Eastern Bosnian Operative Group.

Serbs Torching Villages

AU0504090994

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0900 GMT on 5 April carries in its regular 10-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the republic. Reception is poor.

Reporting from Gorazde, Fahrudin Becic says that "this has ben the worst night that the town has ever had. There have been 24 people wounded, most of them seriously, while the number of those killed is still unknown. Howitzer shells are continuing to destroy the southwestern part of the town. The situation on the front could not be worse and the noose around Gorazde is tightening." He says that "the chetniks have committed new crimes against civilians in the villages on the right bank of the river. Several villages have been burnt to the ground. The town is full of new refugees." "Fierce infantry clashes continued this morning at about 0500. Fateful battles are under way at the gates of Gorazde."

In his report from Bihac Mirza Sadikovic says that "the Serb aggressor continued to attack the region overnight. Throughout the night and this morning Karadzic's terrorists have kept up the attacks with heavy machine guns and antiaircraft weapons on the (Gradiska) part of the front, and on the Grmusko-Srbljanski plateau and Hasin Vrh. The situation has been the same in the Croatian Defense Council's theater of operations, particularly in the area of (Veliki Postoj). As for the paramilitary formations of the so- called Kladusa autonomy, they kept up antiaircraft arms fire throughout the night."

Viktor Boban reports from the theater of operations of the Operative Group Bosna that "after trying in vain all day yesterday to recapture lost territories, last night the chetniks shelled civilian targets in the Hajdarevici area. Despite the heavy losses that the aggressor suffered overnight, he has again launched an attack this morning."

Reporting from Olovo, Amira Salihodzic says that "throughout the night the aggressor fired at our defense

lines using a Praga [armored vehicle], a Bofors, antiaircraft guns and machine guns, and mortars, but without result."

Defense Lines Breached

LD0504064394 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Throughout the day yesterday, Serb-Montenegrin aggressors continued their heavy offensive on the free territory of the Gorazde district.

According to the press center of the Gorazde district, during the seventh day of the offensive on the town yesterday, the aggressor used over 350 types of the most destructive weapons and about 100 tanks and armored vehicles. Units of the Herzegovina, Sarajevo-Romanija, Drina, and Uzice Corps—as well as a large number of mercenaries from Romania, Russia, and neighboring municipalities—are taking part in the bloody onslaught on about 60,000 people, including refugees. The aggressor's fiercest attacks were directed against the southern section of the front, on the right bank of the Drina River, where—despite the defenders' fierce and heroic struggle—the chetniks succeeded in breaching our defense lines. [passage omitted]

Serbs Confirm Breakthrough

AU0504103994 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Belgrade, April 5 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb forces confirmed Tuesday [5 April] they had broken through government defence lines in the eastern enclave of Gorazde in response to a government "offensive" and landed on the western bank of the Drina River.

In Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 50 people had been killed and 250 injured since last week in the fighting in Goradze.

Chief of staff Manojlo Milovanovic told the Bosnian Serb agency SRNA he had ordered his troops to launch a "counter-attack" towards Cajnica, southeast of Gorazde, close to the Serbian border, late Monday since "Moslem formations were trying to join up with forces from Sarajevo and the other enclaves."

SRNA said that Moslem units had fallen back to the villages of Vitkovici and Mrvavici. [passage omitted]

Milovanovic said the Gorazde defenders were attempting "to join up with Sandzak and beyond that with Kosovo." [passage omitted]

UN: Gorazde 'Not About To Fall'

AU0504134194 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Zagreb, April 5 (AFP)—General Charles Ritchie, chief of staff of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in former Yugoslavia, dismissed Tuesday reports that the eastern enclave of Gorazde was about to fall to a separatist Serb onslaught.

"It is not our assessment that it is about to fall," Ritchie told reporters here.

Regarding "the more dramatic reports" of Serb incursions into the enclave, he said: "I'm afraid we have nothing to confirm on that."

Bosnian Serb chief of staff Manojlo Milovanovic confirmed earlier that his forces had breached Bosnian Army defence lines at Gorazde, succeeding in landing on the western bank of the Drina river which flows a few kilometres (miles) to the east and south of the town.

An UNPROFOR spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, warned of a "very serious" situation in the enclave.

UNPROFOR Unable To Send Troops

AU0504114294 Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By Victoria Stegic]

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, April 5 (AFP)—A UN spokesman warned of a "very serious" situation in the eastern enclave of Gorazde after Bosnian Serb forces confirmed Tuesday [5 April] they had broken through defence lines in response to a government "offensive."

A UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) official, insisting on anonymity, said the bombardment of the enclave on Monday had been so intense that UN military observers there had been unable to move about. Serb forces controlled every road or pathway leading to Gorazde and the two other beleaguered eastern enclaves Zepa and Srebrenica.

UNPROFOR spokesman Major Rob Annink said UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina were too thinly spread to spare men for Gorazde.

A spokesman here for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Kris Janowski, said 49 people had been killed and 218 injured since last week in the fighting in Goradze. He cited a report sent from the enclave by UNHCR doctors at 1700 GMT Monday. A UNHCR spokesman in Geneva on Tuesday put the figures at 50 dead and 250 injured.

UN Security Council president Colin Keating of New Zealand said in New York late Monday that UN military advisors were being sent to the region. [passage omitted]

In Geneva, UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said a new wave of refugees was heading for Gorazde, according to one of the four UNHCR members there, with at least 45 arriving late Monday from Balici and other neighbouring villages. The level of fighting in the enclave was "still very high," he said.

Redmond said his organisation was "very concerned" with the situation in Gorazde where it had been "unable

to get a convoy into the town since March 22. ... Those supplies are going to be running out and we desperately need to get more convoys."

Among those killed in the past week were 11 women and elderly people and seven children, he said, citing a UNHCR doctor who visited the town's hospital daily. Dozens of wounded needed to be evacuated, he added. [passage omitted]

Annink cited "other priorities" as a reason for the delay in getting UN troops to the Gorazde region, among them humanitarian aid and support of the ceasefire in Sarajevo and central Bosnia.

"We are already spread very thinly and we don't want to let up on security for our own troops. When we send them we have to be able to defend our own troops," he said. [passage omitted]

'Islamic Fanatics' Attack Serbs

AU0404142994 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Jelena Dabarcic report]

[Text] After a brief lull on the Gorazde front yesterday, the Muslim forces early this morning renewed their attacks on the positions of the Serbian fighters in the direction of Foca and Cajnice. Fierce artillery-infantry attacks are being waged in the regions of Podkozare, Paljike, and Oglecevo, where Islamic fanatics are trying to breach the defense lines of the Serbian territory at any cost.

The Serbian military sources claim that the Muslims have regrouped their forces at the part of the front between Gorazde, Cajnice, and Foca, and that they have abandoned the idea of making an advance toward Cajnice via Gradina and Trebecevo, where they suffered major losses in the past few days.

According to Colonel Jezdimir Lakicevic, on the seventh day of their offensive, the Muslim forces from Gorazde are not giving up their plan of linking up with their forces in Sarajevo and reaching the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and in this way realize their dream of establishing a green line linking Sarajevo, Gorazde, and Sandzak.

In the fighting that took place this morning, the Serbian side did not have any fatalities. Several fighters were wounded.

Muslim Offensive 'Crushed'

LD0504115594 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1102 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—The eight-day Muslim offensive launched from the direction of Gorazde towards the Serb territory in Srbinje (formerly Foca) and Cajnice has been crushed, while the units of the Srpska army have reached the right bank of the Drina River, Major General Manojlo Milovanovic, chief of the general staff of the Srpska army said today.

"Yesterday I ordered a counterattack to be carried out from the direction of Cajnice, because the Muslim units had persistently been trying to link up with their units in Sarajevo," Gen. Milovanovic said.

Inter-Muslim Fighting Reported

AU0404163794 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by SRNA Journalist Mirjana Kusmuk]

[Text] We have learned from the Serbian Army Command in Rogatica that Muslim forces were fiercely attacking Serbian defense lines today from the direction of Gorazde along the lines of Mesici-Jabucko Sedlo and Ustipraca-Kopaci using all available weapons. The Muslim attempts at breaking through were successfully repelled and, according to Colonel Dragisa Masal, commander of the Visegrad Tactical Group, in these battles a score of Muslim soldiers were killed while there were no casualties in the ranks of the Serbian Army.

We have learned from intelligence sources of the Serbian Army in Rogatica that battles were again waged in Gorazde today between forces loyal to the Muslim leadership in Sarajevo and those who favor seeking a peaceful solution through agreements with the Serbs. Shots are being heard in the town during the entire day today and, according to the radio messages that have been monitored, there have been casualties on both sides. In a general panic, the civilian population of Gorazde is leaving the town and trying to go toward Sarajevo via Orahovice and Grebak.

According to well-informed Serbian military sources, Abduselam Sijeric (Belam), the Muslim commander responsible for the death of more than 300 Gorazde Serbs, was seriously wounded in inter-Muslim battles in Gorazde. Forces loyal to Izetbegovic under the command of Serif Buljubasic, which are mostly comprised of Muslims who had arrived from [word indistinct], are accusing Gorazde Muslims of an unsuccessful beginning of the long-planned offensive against Serbian positions in the direction of Cajnice, Rogatica, Srbinje, and Ustipraca. Open clashes between Muslims in Gorazde took place after this morning's raids in the town and arrests of military draftees who had not responded to summons to mobilization, as well as the execution of several deserters who were supposed to serve as examples to others.

The meeting held today between Radovan Karadzic, president of the Srpska republic, and Major General Manojlo Milovanovic, chief of the general staff of the army of the Srpska republic, with General Michael Rose, commander of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] for the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, touched upon the current situation in Gorazde and the obligations of the army of the Srpska republic and UNPROFOR toward the peace process. As Gen. Milovanovic said after the meeting, special attention was devoted to protected

zones in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina and the obligations that UNPROFOR should meet in Srebrenica and Zepa.

Also discussed at the meeting was the realization of obligations taken in the Sarajevo region. Gen. Milovanovic pointed out that obligations are mostly met according to the agreement between representatives of the army of the Srpska republic and UNPROFOR from the meeting held on 9 February.

In reply to journalists' questions regarding the situation in Gorazde, Gen. Rose said that he does not know for sure what is happening in that town and that he cannot rely on reports by television stations such as CNN. He announced that, with a view to getting a more complete insight into the situation in the region, he will personally travel to Gorazde on Wednesday [6 April].

The meeting between Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the Srpska republic, and Andreas (Kuhn), representative of the International Red Cross Committee, is under way at the building of the presidency of the Srpska republic at Pale. The topic of the meeting is the current situation in Prijedor.

Officials Meet With U.S. Congressman McCloskey

AU0404155294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] U.S. Congressman Frank McCloskey is visiting Sarajevo. The U.S. visitor was today received by Presidency member and President of the Serbian Civic Council Mirko Pejanovic.

In the course of the meeting the topic most discussed was the possibility of the Serbs joining the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation. Moreover, the work of the Serbian Consultative Council and the Serbian Civic Council was also discussed, as were the possibilities for the return of Bosnian Serb refugees. Mirko Pejanovic acquainted the distinguished visitor with the new wave of ethnic cleansing that Karadzic's Serbs are carrying out in the areas of Banja Luka, Prijedor, and other places that are under their control. He asked McCloskey to strive for the United States' increased engagement in the region, because this great [word indistinct] is well-known precisely for the protection of human rights and liberties. If we fail in halting the Serbian fascism, I am not sure that we will be able to stop other fascism in these areas, said Pejanovic, and once again appealed to McCloskey to influence the United States' increased engagement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. McCloskey promised to do everything in his power to achieve—through the consultative bodies of the U.S. Congress—an increased U.S. presence in the solution of the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis.

The distinguished U.S. visitor was also received by the Chief of General Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Supreme Command Rasim Delic. On this occasion, Mr. McCloskey showed interest in the progress of the implementation of the signed agreement between the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions adopted so far. He also showed interest in the situation on the Bosnia-Herzegovina fronts, particularly in the situation in Gorazde after the Serbian aggressor's latest offensive. General Delic informed Mr. McCloskey about the situation on the Bosnia-Herzegovina fronts with special stress on the situation in Gorazde and Bihac. He reiterated that all that was happening in Gorazde and Bihac is yet another expression of the Serbian aggressor's defiance of the international community. General Delic also explained the Bosnia- Herzegovina Army's position regarding the situation in Sarajevo and regarding many other details important for grasping the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

McCloskey Holds News Conference

AU0404203094 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] U.S. Congressman Frank McCloskey spent yesterday and today in the capital city of Bosnia-Herzegovina. At today's news conference McCloskey stated his impressions of his visit to Sarajevo and Mostar. Guests at the conference were Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and the President of the Serbian Consultative Council Ljubomir Berberovic. Nedzad Leko reports:

[Begin recording] [Leko] Congressman Frank McCloskey, member of the Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees in the U.S. Congress, said that the renewed attacks at Gorazde and Bihac confirm that the war is not over.

[McCloskey, in English fading into Serbo-Croat translation read by Leko] There is no doubt at all that the war still continues. Sarajevo, despite everything, is not a free city. It is a city under siege although it is not being shelled at the moment. I visited Mostar on two occasions on Friday and Saturday. The people on the eastern banks are still suffering, the food is inadequate, there is no electricity, they drink unfiltered water from the Neretva River. In the meantime, the terrible ethnic cleansing continues, particularly in the region of Banja Luka and Prijedor. Sixty thousand citizens of Gorazde are under siege. Many things still need to be done. In comparison to the pre-war situation, only 24,000, or 7 percent of the non-Serbian population, has remained in the region of Banja Luka. The entire world continues to turn a blind eye while this ethnic cleansing continues in Banja Luka and other areas. The planned evacuation from Prijedor is against all the provisions of international law and human ethics. That is why we need to ask ourselves what the world is doing, why is it not acting? Something must be done. The world must not turn a blind eye to this. When I return to Washington, I will request the Administration to send U.S. personnel here. For the time being, these do not need to be peace forces, but logistics

personnel, engineers, administrators, medical crews. I believe that this would help maintain the peace between the Bosniaks and the Croats.

[Leko] Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic called on the international community to react urgently to the attacks on Gorazde and the ethnic cleansing.

[Silajdzic, in English fading into Serbo-Croat translation read by Leko] The question is why the UN Security Council is not reacting to this. What does the term safe haven mean if not the protection of the civilian population in Gorazde and Bihac? Second, why is the Convention on Genocide from 1949 not observed, when genocide continues in Bosnia-Herzegovina? The process of ethnic cleansing is being drawn to a close in Banja Luka and Prijedor, genocide is being completed. This, of course, to a great extent calls into question the continuation of the peace process. If in this way a situation is created where there will be no non-Serbian population in the occupied areas, then this creates a different situation at the negotiating table. The problem is that the international community minimizes this fact, which in turn creates yet another situation, that is, these people are encouraged to carry on. They are attacking Gorazde, Bihac, they are ethnically cleansing Prijedor, Sipovo, Banja Luka, yet there is no reaction. Our question is why the Security Council is not reacting to this, because they have an obligation to react.

[Leko] Dr. Ljubo Berberovic, president of the Serbian Consultative Council informed the correspondents about the measures this body was taking in connection to this.

[Berberovic, in English fading into Serbo-Croat translation read by Leko] The Serbian Civic Council and the Serbian Consultative Council in Sarajevo have written to the UN Security Council demanding urgent action to stop the further maltreatment of civilians and any further ethnic cleansing. If this is not done, there will be little chance of successfully defending Bosnia- Herzegovina as a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural community. We have proposed that groups of observers be urgently sent to Banja Luka and Prijedor as the first step toward maintaining chances for a successful continuation of the peace process.

[Leko] At the end of the news conference, Congressman McCloskey said that it was still not too late for the salvation of hundreds of thousands of human lives. Genocide and ethnic cleansing must be stopped by an urgent action of the international community. [end recording]

General Rose Received by Serb Officials

LD0404163294 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1510 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 4 April (Tanjug)—President of the Srpska republic Radovan Karadzic and Srpska republic army Chief of General Staff Major General Manojlo Milovanovic received the UNPROFOR commander for former Bosnia-Herzegovina, Britain's General Michael Rose, in Pale today.

Their talks focused on the obligations of the Srpska army and UNPROFOR; General Milovanovic and Rose made press statements following the talks.

"We met today to improve the initiated peace process on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina. We discussed many issues including obligations for the army of the Srpska republic as regards the peace process, but also UNPROFOR obligations in the restoration of peace in this area", Milovanovic said.

"We also had talks on the so-called safe areas and the obligations that UNPROFOR has to fulfill in Srebrenica and Zepa. We dwelt on the problem of Gorazde, which is also one of the safe areas according to UN Security Council resolutions," Milovanovic said.

He stressed that they also discussed the issue of Sarajevo as regards building on what was agreed on 9 February, saying that the implementation of the agreement was proceeding well.

General Rose said that at the meeting today they discussed the principles of defining the territories and borders of the safe areas. Commenting on the situation around Gorazde, Rose said that reports coming from that area were scanty, but he thought that there had been no important changes on the ground.

"We must not rely on media reports alone, CNN for instance. Military observers are on the spot, and I agreed with General Milovanovic that I should go to Gorazde on Wednesday [6 April] and see for myself what is really happening there", Rose said.

Their meeting was also attended by the speaker of the people's assembly of the Srpska republic, Momcilo Krajisnik, and vice president of the Srpska republic Nikola Koljevic.

Government Protests Croatian Decision on Refugees

AU0404153994 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government has written to the Government of the Republic of Croatia from today's session [words indistinct].

We were surprised to hear the instructions of the Croatian Government's Office for Refugees, which discontinues refugee status in the Republic of Croatia for citizens from the area of the Mostar municipality. Our surprise is all the greater since we know that Arif Smajkic, minister for refugees, labor, and social policy in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government, during his recent visit and talks with deputy prime minister of the Croatian Government Ivica Kostovic, and director of the Office for Refugees Adalbert Rebic agreed on joint activities of the two governments regarding the return of

refugees from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina. An identical agreement was reached with the representatives of the Croatian people in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the recently held Constituent Assembly of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation. Therefore, we propose to the Croatian Government to annul the aforementioned instructions and create conditions for joint preparations for all activities pertaining to the organized return of refugees and displaced persons to which we are obliged by the provisions of international treaties on the repatriation of refugees, reads the statement of the Information Ministry.

Serbs Deny 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Prijedor

LD0304170594 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1623 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Banja Luka, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—The murders which took place in Prijedor between 29 March and 1 April are criminal acts commited by hitherto unidentified perpetrators, and intensive action is being taken to uncover those who committed them, the interior ministry of the Srpska republic [RS] has said in a statement.

The statement says that eight criminal acts of murder were committed in the specified period and that 16 people, mainly Muslims, lost their lives [as received].

Regarding claims by some foreign agencies that the murders were part of ethnic cleansing in and around Prijedor, the statement says that these were criminal acts by hitherto unidentified perpetrators, against whom criminal charges have been filed.

"Teams of Ministry of Internal Affairs and security organs of the Srpska republic army are working intensively on coliecting data in order to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the crimes," the statement says and adds that all possible preventive measures are being taken to stop any further escalation of crime.

The interior ministry points to the fact that the events in Prijedor took place during the Muslim spring offensive, which—through the crimes committed—demonstrated that the Muslims were prepared to use all available means to achieve their goals. This contributed to the escalation of the interethnic conflicts in this area, where such conflicts had not occurred for a long time.

The RS interior ministry appeals to all international institutions "which have influence in the area" to use it to protect the Serb population in the areas controlled by Muslims.

They particularly demand that prisoners be treated according to international law.

In this way extremists among the Serb people can also be opposed more effectively and better protection can be given to the Serb people and all citizens living on the RS territory, the statement says in conclusion.

Karadzic Order on Investigation

LD0304154094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1411 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Srpska republic, today issued a strict order to relevant organs to speed up the investigation in Prijedor to uncover the perpetrators of the criminal activities and to arrest all those responsible for the events in the town, the Srpska republic president's office said in a statement.

The statement, forwarded to TANJUG, says that Radovan Karadzic's order particularly stressed that enemies of the Srpska republic were intensifying attacks against the sovereignty and independence of the Srpska republic, in an attempt to create a state of chaos, to compromise its civilian authorities, and prevent the creation and functioning of the Serb state.

The Srpska republic president also issued strict instructions regarding the safeguarding of the security of members of minorities, as well as instructions to all Srpska republic civilian and military authorities to give all possible help to the International Red Cross, the statement says.

President Karadzic's order also emphasized that all perpetrators of criminal activities were to be tried and most severely punished before the entire world public, the statement says in conclusion.

Silajdzic Supports Evacuation

LD0304155794 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic supports the plans of the International Committee of the Red Cross to evacuate non-Serb residents of Prijedor in order to protect them from violence. Human lives are most important, even if that helps the Serbs in their ethnic cleansing, Silajdzic told journalists. Around 9,000 Muslims and Croats and 55,000 Serbs live in Prijedor at the moment.

Red Cross Postpones Evacuation

AU0404203894 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Sarajevo, April 4 (AFP)—The Red Cross Monday [4 April] postponed plans to evacuate thousands of Moslems from the town of Prijedor following ethnic killings, citing disagreement with Bosnian Serbs over how many people are to leave.

The announcement came from Andreas Kuhn of the International Committee of the Red Cross after a meeting with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale near Sarajevo.

"I am not sure whether we will go back to negotiation or we'll take other measures" to protect the Moslems of Prijedor in western Bosnia, Kuhn said. "This is to be decided in Geneva."

Asked if the Red Cross continued with preparations for the evacuation, Kuhn said, "We are ready and we remain ready."

The Red Cross and the United Nations had planned to begin the evacuation of about 6,000 people from Prijedor on Tuesday.

Moslems there fear for their lives following a massacre last week in which 17 Moslems and three Croats were killed, UN officials say.

ICRC Says Situation 'Better'

LD0404164694 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1538 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Banja Luka, 4 Mar (TANJUG)—Christian Bruner, an International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] official in Banja Luka, has told a TANJUG correspondent that there will be no large-scale evacuation of the Muslim and Croat population tomorrow as intimated by some of the world's media, including the Croatian and Muslim media.

Bruner says the situation in Prijedor is much better following the order of Radovan Karadzic, president of the Srpska republic, that an investigation into the killings in Prijedor be completed so that those responsible are discovered.

Bruner says that it is only possible for permission to be granted for the resettlement of a number of people who have expressed great fear for their lives and who want to leave Prijedor. This resettlement will not begin tomorrow either but will be carried out over the next few days.

He stresses that security guarantees from the Serb authorities are needed during their transportation for this resettlement to take place. He added that talks will begin tomorrow between ICRC representatives and the Srpska republic authorities and that he believes that all the necessary gaurantees will be given.

Sarajevo Radio Reports Serb Attacks

AU0404184794

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1700 GMT on 4 April carries in its regular 31-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the republic.

The studio announcer says that "after bringing in fresh forces from Serbia and Montenegro and mercenaries from Russia, Romania, and other places, the chetniks continued their fierce attacks on Gorazde."

Gorazde correspondent Fahrudin Becic reports that "many of them [enemy troops] today remained in the woods in front of the defense lines on Lastan and Popovaca. The warmongers and chetnik commanders simply replaced them with new criminals. The defenders are paying no attention to this, and are readily responding to infantry attacks which follow after every savage shelling. They have repelled 10 such attacks. On the other part of the front, on the route towards Rogatica [words indistinct]. The defenders on the free parts of the Rogatica municipality have repelled several extremely fierce infantry attacks, supported by tanks, howitzers, and multiple rocket launchers. The aggressor also attacked the areas between Mecic and Ustipraca and the area of the 1,207 m high Mt. Gostunj. He suffered losses in all of these attacks. This is confirmed by the fact that 200 blood donors arrived in Cajnice today from Jagodina. As nightfall approaches, the chetnik attacks are intensifying. No one has the time to count all the shells, but according to a rough estimate, over 10,000 shells have landed by 1700."

The studio announcer reads a report from the 7-South Operative Group, and says that "chetnik shells killed [stradati] 12 people as they were unloading a humanitarian aid truck in the operational zone of the Croatian Defense Council Usora Brigade. There were small arms' provocations and sniper fire in the operational zone of the 201st Chivalrous Brigade. The aggressor also attacked with antiaircraft weapons in the area of Maglaj. A regrouping of the aggressor forces was sighted in this area."

Hamiz Deronjic reports from Brcko and says that "the Serbian aggressor is still [word indistinct] on artillery attacks. Today, recoilless guns, mortars, portable rocket launchers from Cadjavac and from the direction of Omerbegovaca pounded the defense in the region of Vranovaca. Chetnik antiaircraft guns fiercely shelled Djukici."

An unidentified correspondent from the Srebrenica Press Center reports that "the aggressor, using antiaircraft guns and antiaircraft machine guns from Kopresko and Visica Brdo, is relentlessly shelling the border areas of Sutjeska. He is using 60-mm mortars to sporadically shell the region [name indistinct]. [Words indistinct] the aggressor's antiaircraft guns and antiaircraft machine guns are shelling the outskirts of the town. A concentration of manpower and equipment has been sighted in the region of Jasenova, where the aggressor has captured two demilitarized zones."

Serb Shelling Hits Usora Civilians

LD0404175294 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] News from Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Serbs committed a new crime in Usora today. Shrapnel from a grenade fired by the Serbs wounded 13 civilians who were lining up for humanitarian aid, the department for political activites of the 110th brigade of the Usora Croatian Defense Council has announced.

Doctors in a hospital in Tesanj are fighting to save their lives. One child has already died from the shrapnel

wounds. According to the same source, since 1300 this morning Serb artillery has been pounding the villages of the free Croatian community of Usora from several directions. A humanitarian aid convoy and the spiritual center of the Usora Croats—the parish church of St. Anthony in Sivsa—are coming under the fiercest attacks. Considerable material damage has been caused to residential buildings.

Muslims Shelling Croat Areas of Mostar

LD0404235394 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2249 GMT 4 Apr 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG) - A Croatian radio correspondent reported from Mostar on Monday evening that the ceasefire has been seriously violated in this town in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina after several heavy shells were fired from Moslem east Mostar on Croat west Mostar.

Radio Free Europe reported this evening that two Moslem soldiers were killed and four were wounded in Croat-Moslem clashes near Gornji Vakuf.

Moslem Radio Sarajevo has not reported about Moslem-Croat clashes around Gornji Vakuf these days, but Croatian radio claims that the fighting is between two groups of smugglers. The Croatian radio did not say which side sustained casualties.

Military sources of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) have said that the HVO military police will try to seize the smugglers, who are said to have "abused the reached agreements on opening communications and are not refraining even from armed clashes."

Bosnian Croats and Moslems signed an agreement on the forming of a Moslem-Croat federation in Washington in mid-March under strong pressure from the United States. The federation Constitution has already been adopted but clashes between the two peoples continue. Serbs, the third nation who live in this former Yugoslav republic were not invited to the Washington talks.

Muslims Continue Offensive Against Teslic, Doboj

LD0404233694 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2239 GMT 4 Apr 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Banja Luka, April 4 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslems are continuing to attack on most fronts, with the brunt of the offensive directed against the areas of Teslic, Mt. Ozren and Doboj in the north, Bosnian Serb army sources said late on Monday.

The Moslems have intensified attacks on the Serb positions in northern Bosnia as part of an all-out offensive, launched with the object of taking the Sava River valley and cutting off a corridor linking the eastern and western parts of the Bosnian Serb republic.

The Bosnian Serb army command in Banja Luka reported the worst fighting to be in the Teslic area, where infantry attacks on the southern and southeastern sectors of the front were preceded by heavy artillery shellings.

Moslem forces have stepped up operations also on the southwestern sector of the Ozren front and on the southern slopes of Mt. Ozren, in an effort to break through the Serb defence lines, the source said.

Heavy artillery and infantry operations were reported also on the Doboj front, with the Moslems dropping several shells on the town of Doboj itself. There were no casualties, the report said.

Muslims Step Up Brcko Attacks

LD0404164094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1517 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Banja Luka, 4 Apr (TANJUG)—Muslim forces have intensified their attacks on Serb positions west of Brcko, the information service of the First Krajina Corps of the Srpska republic army said in Banja Luka today.

The fiercest attacks were launched from the direction of Bajici on the Brcko suburb of Ulice which was targeted with more than 10 mortar shells. There was also fire from antiaircraft and infantry weapons on this part of the battlefield. Srpska republic army units were forced to respond to silence the enemy.

Large movements of troops belonging to the so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina army were observed on the Gradacac part of the front as well as very intense movements of armored vehicles near the frontline and in the enemy's territory. [passage omitted]

Attack Serb Army Near Srbobran

LD0404091794 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0844 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Banja Luka, 4 Apr (TANJUG)—Muslim forces this morning launched a heavy attack from the direction of Prusac and Bugojno against Serb defense lines five kilometers south of Srbobran [Donji Vakuf] the information service of the 1st Krajina Corps of the Srpska republic army announced in Banja Luka. The Muslims used 82-mm mortars, anti-aircraft and infantry weapons. The defense lines have not changed, but several Serb fighters were wounded. Members of the Srpska republic army responded to the fire, after which the firing stopped.

This report also denies yesterday's news broadcast by Croatian and Muslim media that their units reached a position one kilometer from the center of Srbobran. Serb military sources also deny that combined Muslim and Croat units took part in the attack, saying that this is a propaganda trick. They stress that the attack on Serbobran is conducted mainly by Muslims who earlier

escaped from the town and also members of the 370th Donji Vakuf Brigade of the so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina army.

Attempting To Break Into Serb Territory

LD0504091894 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0724 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Cajnice, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—The Muslim forces are this morning making fresh desperate attempts to break into the Serb territory on the parts of the front near Cajnice, Foca, and Gorazde. According to a statement by the command of the Herzegovina [Serb] Corps they are attacking on almost all front lines. [passage omitted]

It is estimated that over 100 Muslim soldiers were killed in yesterday's attempt to break into the Serb territory. [passage omitted]

Serbs Report Muslim Troops Deserting

LD0404202194 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2001 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cajnice, April 4 (TANJUG)—Following seven days of fruitless efforts by Moslem forces to penetrate Serb lines with offensive infantry and artillery attacks from Gorazde, a United Nations protected area in eastern Bosnia, the troops are panicking and deserting, Bosnian Serb military sources have said.

In the area of the village of Trebesevo on Monday the local command of the troops loyal to Bosnian Moslem Leader Alija Izetbegovic ordered four Moslem troops to be shot after they abandoned their positions, the sources said.

The Moslem offensive is aimed at Cajnice, Foca and Rogatici, and the heaviest fighting on Monday took place in the area of the villages of Podkozarje and Oglecevo.

Moslem troops began an offensive on the Bosnian Serb republic in the second half of March, after they signed an agreement with Bosnian Croats on setting up a Moslem-Croat federation in Bosnia.

Serbs Warn Croats To Stop Attacking Positions

LD0504122394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1042 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Zvornik, Bratunac, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—An all-out Muslim offensive against the Srpska republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Croatian support from the left bank of the Sava river is continuing, but the signs that it will be crushed have already become obvious, a TANJUG correspondent learned today from the circles close to the general staff of the army of the Srpska republic.

These circles have warned that "unless the regular Army of the Republic of Croatia halts its attacks on all Serb defense lines in Posavina [region along the Sava river] today," "the Srpska army will retaliate," from which the Serb side has refrained so far.

This means, the circles have said, that the army of the Srpska republic "would begin with actions with all their forces and from all means at their disposal against the territory of the Republic of Croatia," as "attacks from long-range artillery and missiles systems from the left bank of the Sava river have been incessant over the past three days." [passage omitted]

Interview With Herceg-Bosna Prime Minister

LD0504002994 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Jadranko Prlic, prime minister of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna, with unidentified correspondent—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Our guest this evening is Jadranko Prlic, the prime minister of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna. Good evening, and Happy Easter.

[Prlic] Thank you, the same to you and to all Croatian TV viewers.

[Correspondent] A slightly provocative question to start with: Does the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna and its government still exist after the adoption of the Constitution?

[Prlic] Yes. In accordance with the adopted Constitution of the federation, all transitional legal arrangements are valid in this period until the elections are held or, in other words, until the Constitution agreement has been fully implemented.

[Correspondent] How do you view some statements—for example, the one by Ivo Komsic, that Herceg-Bosna is some kind of a para- state—something that is comparable to the so-called Krajina in Croatia? Can some individuals, such as Komsic from Sarajevo, jeopardize the agreement?

[Prlic] We adhere to our own policy, and we know what we are doing. Such statements cannot dispute the rights of the Croat people, which are most fully protected by the very creation and existence of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna.

[Correspondent] Would you say that those rights have been respected over the last month?

[Prlic] Yes, although there have been some attempts—which was clear in Sarajevo—to say that Herceg-Bosna does not exist, that its existence is the key cause of the conflict between the Muslims and Croats. We, of course, have always denied this. The conflict began with Muslim aggression, and that is completely clear to everyone.

Another very important thing is an attempt to impose a feeling of collective guilt upon the Croats for everything that happened during the last year, which we have also rejected and have proved just the opposite.

[Correspondent] Croatian Defense Council [HVO] soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina told me when I was in Herzegovina that they would never have the fleur-de-lys [Bosnian symbol] sown on their uniforms. Can you comment on that? Also, how long can the transition to the federation last, and what will it be like?

[Prlic] The fleur-de-lys will not be worn because the Constitution envisages that all symbols of the Bosniak-Muslim and Croat federation—the flag, the coat of arms—will be chosen jointly. The fleur-de-lys is not a state symbol. It remains the symbol of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina only in the transitional period. For as long as the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina exists—with the old assembly, presidency, and government—the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna will also exist.

[Correspondent] Do you personally believe in a quick transition, or will it take time?

[Prlic] The transition will last for five or six months. The starting point was the adoption of the Constitution. Local elections will be held within five months and federal elections within six months at the most. We expect that the Constitution agreement will be fully implemented within that period.

[Correspondent] There are 32,500 Croats in Sarajevo, according to the church register. Many more of our people live elsewhere in Bosnia. Are they a forgotten part of the Croat people, deprived of their rights?

[Prlic] No. Who was looking after all the Croats who live outside of the territories controlled by the HVO? There are a lot of examples; one is the care provided for the Croats in Banja Luka, in the Krajina area [sentence as heard]. We also reacted sharply to the events in Prijedor. (?We also took care of) the Croats in Tuzla, Brcko, Zenica, Sarajevo etc. We allow other positions and views, but we will not go beyond a minimum: to secure for all Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina the same rights as those of the other constituent nation in the Bosnia-Herzegovina federation.

[Correspondent] Where is the Sarajevo HVO? We have reports that the Croat National Council and the Bosnian presidency have been presenting themselves as representatives to Western guests? Where is the Sarajevo HVO ?

[Prlic] We installed an HVO headquarters in Sarajevo last week, and its activities will be in accordance with the Roso-Delic peace agreement, providing for deployment of our troops, our security service, and our officers.

[Correspondent] Some say that Croats have limited themselves to western Herzegovina, that they have forgotten about Sarajevo, Tuzla, and so on. You have just denied this.

[Prlic] We have not forgotten, simply because the Chamber of Deputies of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna is made up of Croats from all parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is why I think that such statements are deceitful.

[Correspondent] Some on the Bosniak side are still against the agreement, and this makes things very difficult. Is there any dissent on the Croat side, and how would you define it?

[Prlic] Well, resistance to the agreement could be caused by the understanding of some that we have not achieved as much as we could have. This agreement is a historical necessity, and that is how it should be understood. My impression is that a huge majority of Croats and even more Bosniak Muslims support the agreement. Some of those against the agreement are extremist forces in both nations. Some have lost family members or friends during the war and cannot accept any kind of agreement with the side that we fought against over the last year because of the psychological state they are in. However, I believe that we have good foundations for the implementation of the agreement. I even believe that the agreement is being implemented in the field much faster than was expected in the beginning.

[Correspondent] When I ask you about the future, Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to know more about business possibilities. What can the people from prosperous Herzegovina offer to Croats in Bosnia, since they have been separated thus far? What can they get?

[Prlic] We have already worked out some 30 reconstruction projects, particularly in connection with infrastructure, education, and health. The rest of the program is being prepared, and I believe that we have to develop an appropriate system throughout the territory of the Bosnia-Herzegovina federation in the initial phase. Until now—maybe it is immodest for me to say this—the only state that exists and that functions on the territory of Bosnia- Herzegovina is the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna. I am aware how the state system functions in the territory controlled by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and now I have seen—and I knew previously from information we had—that such a system does not exist in factual terms on territory controlled by the Muslim army.

I expect that the deputy prime minister of the Sarajevo government will come to Mostar this week together with several other ministers. On this occasion, talks will be held on all operational matters in connection with the development of the economic and financial system, on the enabling of the free movement of goods and capital, and—conditionally—on the expected arrival of foreign capital—above all, for the reconstruction of the infrastructure.

[Correspondent] One of my friends is a businessman. When will he be able to go to Sarajevo, according to you, and open a factory there? Is there such a possibility, and do you see this happening soon?

[Prlic] I do. It was, in fact, I who initiated these talks and the possibility of opening up Sarajevo, and I believe that in the coming month we will be able to have more serious talks on this.

We reached agreement in Sarajevo with the military commanders—who are already installing their headquarters in Sarajevo—to rent two or three large buildings in Sarajevo where we will open a Croatian bank and Croatian insurance company and make it possible for Croatian factories to establish themselves to a large extent and to set up the center of their business operations in Sarajevo. I believe we will achieve this in the coming month or two, and this will make possible the greater presence of Croats in the capital of the federation.

[Correspondent] Do you believe personally in the Croats in Sarajevo and in Tuzla? How do you see the possibility of their becoming involved and beginning to live?

[Prlic] I believe it is possible. I believe that this constitutional agreement and the quality-based selection of personnel for the authorities of the federation will ensure for them equality and the possibility of full national, economic, and personal prosperity.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, at the end of this conversation, have you got anything you would like to say to people in Herceg-Bosna and to people in Bosnia?

[Prlic] I would like to send them word that they are secure, that Croatian policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina takes account of all Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as those who are in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and those who are refugees as a result of the war in these areas. We want to realize our rights, but not to the detriment of the other nation with whom we have joined to form the federation, and also not to the detriment of the third nation that we expect to accept this agreement in the period ahead. I would like to send word to them to be patient and to attempt, in the elections that will be held, to elect those people who can competently represent them and build a state that will be much better than the one in which we lived before the war.

[Correspondent] Dr. Jadranko Prlic, prime minister of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna, thank you for being our guest.

[Prlic] Thank you.

Army Says Withdrawal of Weapons Proceeding

LD0504120794 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Let us first hear the news on the observance of the cease-fire and the withdrawal of weapons in crisis areas of the Republic of Croatia:

At 0900 the Croatian Army in the area of the Split operational zone completed the withdrawal of its weapons from the 10 to 20 km zone, or placed it under UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] control within the 20 km zone at the previously designated locations. This was announced in Zadar this morning by the department for political activities of the Split operational zone.

At Lika battlefield, the Croatian Army withdrew its heavy weapons from the 10 to 20 km zone before the deadline at 0900, we learned this morning from the department for political activities of the Gospic operational zone of the Croatian Army. We have learned that the Serbs have also complied with the plan regulating the withdrawal of weapons.

At the Karlovac, Duga Resa and Ogulin battlefields, small and heavy weapons are also being withdrawn to the previously designated locations under UNPROFOR control, and the cease-fire has been observed, the military sources in Karlovac have announced.

According to the cease-fire agreement between the Croatian and Serb sides, control points have been set up in sector north: in Vojnovac near Plaski and in the Karlovac suburb of Turanj on the bridge spanning the Mreznica River.

RSK Army Begins Pullback of Heavy Weapons

AU0404165494 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[By Michel Viatteau]

[Text] Benkovac, Croatia, April 4 (AFP)—Serb forces Monday [4 April] withdrew large numbers of artillery and tanks from the front line in their self-proclaimed republic of Krajina, as a ceasefire with Croatian forces came into effect.

A column of T54 tanks, 130mm guns, light mortars and military trucks loaded with ammunition pulled away from the front line in clouds of black exhaust smoke on the road between Benkovac and Knin, in southern Croatia.

Smiling young Serb soldiers sat astride their hardware next to the red, white and blue flags of Krajina, waving the victory sign. Crowds of local people came out to greet them in the town of Kistanje and its neighbouring villages, hailed in return by a loud chorus of honking horns.

The withdrawal was supervised by the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at several control points, in accordance with the Russian-brokered peace accord signed last Wednesday.

According to the agreement, which took effect Monday morning, Croatian army forces and secessionist Serbs have until 0700 GMT on Tuesday to withdraw all their heavy weapons from an agreed demarcation line.

Mortar and anti-aircraft guns must be withdrawn 10 kilometres (six miles) and artillery and tanks by 20 kilometres (12 miles) although some are to be redeployed at specified locations.

At one UN control point on the edges of Benkovac, by 1100 GMT Canadian troops had counted 10 T55 tanks, eight T34s, eight 105mm guns, nine 152mm guns and other weapons.

The checkpoint was visited by the commander of the 92nd Serb Brigade of Benkovac, Lieutenant-Colonel Uzelac, and the commander of the Canadian UNPROFOR unit stationed here, Major Andre Lefebvre, who confirmed that the withdrawal was going as planned.

They were both mindful of the Croatian offensive of January 22 last year, which broke the first UN-backed ceasefire between the two sides.

After repeated demands by Uzelac for confirmation of the Croatian withdrawal, the Canadian commander contacted his counterpart on the other side by radio and reported, "They're at exactly the same point as here."

People living in the mountain town of Knin, the capital of the self-proclaimed Krajina republic, said they hoped the ceasefire would bring them peace and better supplies. "Perhaps we'll have chocolate at last for the children," said one young woman in the main street.

The leaders of Knin, which wants to join with Serbia proper, refuse to see the military agreement as a political concession to Croat sovereignty as Zagreb seems to think, a senior interior ministry official who wished to remain anonymous told AFP.

In Zagreb, UNPROFOR said the troop withdrawal included in the military accord would begin Monday afternoon.

Troops from both sides—at some points only a few metres (yards) apart—are to withdraw one kilometre (just over half a mile) from the confrontation line, forming a two-kilometer buffer zone to be controlled by UN forces.

The buffer zone line was drawn on a series of 35 maps during painstaking negotiations at the Russian Embassy in Zagreb. The overall operation is to be completed by 0700 GMT Friday.

The UN Protection Force deputy commander General John MacInnis said last Thursday that the first task, "difficult if not impossible," would be "transforming what was written on the map to precise locations on the ground, the establishment of (...) joint (Serb-Croatian) commissions which will have the task of confirming precisely where those lines of separation are to be."

The commissions will also determine the number of Serb and Croatian police who are to be deployed in limited

numbers between the two separation lines, said MacInnis, who hinted that the stated deadline might not be met.

To enable UNPROFOR troops to move into the buffer zone, the Croatian and Serb separatist adversaries are to provide maps setting out the location of mine fields between the separation lines.

They are to clear the mines themselves, under UNPROFOR supervision, removing several thousand mines that have been placed in the zone since the conflict erupted in June 1991.

'Disquiet' Over Agreement With Serbs

LD0404193694 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report from Zagreb by Nada al-Isa]

[Text] The Croat-Serb agreement is still causing disquiet. The Croatian opposition is still not clear about the conditions under which it was signed or what has happened to the maps—there were 35 on the table. There have been no offical statements on this from the Croatian side. They are keeping things concealed as best they can.

However the Zagreb press has published a map reprinted from the Vienna-based paper DER STANDARD and the borders on the map are shown in such a way as to give any Croat a headache. For example, the so-called republic of Serb Krajina has outlets to the sea at Biograd and Zadar, but what tops it all, the papers say, is that even Osijek is in the so-called Krajina. Is the leadership really concealing such a thing from ordinary people?

President Tudjman also has different political problems every day. The replaced Josip Manolic has announced that he is off to Washington as early as today where he is to have talks with U.S. congressmen responsible for military issues. The meeting has allegedly been fixed up by Dobroslav Paraga. So Manolic is not travelling to Washington with Tudjman's blessing. Who is he representing? What is behind the visit? Those in the know say that Dr Tudjman himself would like to know the answer to this question.

Plans To 'Usurp' Property of Serbs Reported

LD0404152494 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1452 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG)—Croatia will sell out cheaply at least 20,000 apartments, summer homes and other facilities worth over three billion U.S. dollars, whose owners are nationals of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the president of the Association for the Equitable Treatment and Protection of the Property of Yugoslav Citizens, Mirko Lalovic, said on Monday.

That such a sale will take place is also evident from the fact that the Croatian Fund for Privatization announced in March the placing on sale of 18 holiday complexes, which are the property of firms from Serbia and Montenegro (federal units of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), the president of the Belgrade Association told TANJUG.

Croatia has usurped the facilities, following its forcible secession from the former Yugoslav Federation in 1991 under the pretext that they were public property and has entered them into the land register as state property.

In order to usurp the private property of FRY nationals, Croatia introduced an exorbitant tax on the private property of non-Croatian nationals, 15 German marks per square meter annually.

The same tax for Croatian nationals is 3.75 marks, proving that it was a well thought out plan to coerce property owners from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to give away or sell them to Croatians at bargain price.

Since payment operations between Croatia and the Federal Repubic of Yugoslavia is non-existant, citizens from Serbia and Montenegro, Republics making up the Yugoslav Federation, are not able to pay their taxes.

The Croatian legislator has thus provided, when indedebtedness exceeds a third of the value of the taxed property, for selling it. The beneficiary will be the state. This will happen soon due to the accumulated interest (two percent daily), so that summer homes, houses, apartments and other facilities, property of FRY nationals have already been put on sale, Lalovic said.

Such an usurpation of assets contributes to the creation of an ethnically clean Croatia, because Serbs and Montenegrans will lose their properties in that republic, thus denying them the right to return once relations are normalized, he added.

Stressing that the Croation attitude towards real estate owners from Serbia and Montenegro is unprecedented in international law, Lalovic added that they acquired the property at the time when Croatia was part of the former Yugoslavia, which means under the same conditions as Croats have so that they should be treated equally, regardless of the fact that in the meantime they have become foreigners.

The usurpation of property in Croatia has been recordered by over 16,000 Yugoslav nationals.

It is assessed however that 25 to 30 percent of owners have not done so, expecting that the situation will sort itself out, so that it is certain that the total value of properties exceeds three billion dollars, Lalovic said in conclusion.

Gligorov Discusses Milosevic's Motives

AU0504090294 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 4 Apr 94 p 179

[Interview with Kiro Gligorov, president of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by an unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "An Attack Would Mean War"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Serbia has been waging war against Bosnia for two years. Is Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] also threatened with military aggression?

[Gligorov] I am not plagued by excessive fear, but I cannot rule out the possibility of this conflict spreading to the south.

[DER SPIEGEL] You called for UN protection as far back as in November 1992; since last July U.S. blue helmets have been patrolling the border with Serbia. Does this guarantee peace?

[Gligorov] These units came when the danger of war was acute. The presence of the Americans should be sufficient warning to the Serbs.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Serbian army could occupy Macedonia within a few days; in the war against Bosnia NATO reacted only after almost two years. Are you deceiving yourself by believing that you would be able to defend your young republic in case of an attack by Belgrade?

[Gligorov] The Macedonian problem is far more complex than the Bosnian one. In Bosnia the war is a war in an enclave, which is hardly in danger of spreading. An attack on Macedonia would be a war on NATO's northern [as published] border, in which all the Balkan states would be involved. In addition, there could be a conflict between the two NATO states, Greece and Turkey.

[DER SPIEGEL] Last spring Serbia's President Milosevic arrived unexpectedly for a brief visit to Lake Ohrid. What did he want from you?

[Gligorov] He presented a proposal for intensive cooperation; however, when I asked him why he did not recognize our republic, his answer was: This will be done only when Greece has diplomatically recognized Macedonia. Because for him Athens is his only true ally in the Balkans....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...with whom Milosevic would like to divide Macedonia.

[Gligorov] Athens' former Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis says that Milosevic did indeed suggest this to him. But he refused.

[DER SPIEGEL] The plans are probably not yet off the table. Three weeks ago Greek Foreign Minister Papoulias visited Belgrade to discuss the renaissance of the former Yugoslavia.

[Gligorov] We will not join a new Yugoslav Federation voluntarily at any price.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does the quarrel between Skopje and Athens really just revolve around the name of Macedonia, which the Greeks claim for themselves?

[Gligorov] Nonsense. If this were so, the issue would have come up 50 years ago. This is how long we have used this name without anybody being bothered by it. Nationalism is reigning in Greece now.

[DER SPIEGEL] How long can you resist the threat from the north and the embargo from the south?

[Gligorov] We are waiting. Our economic situation is difficult; there are no alternative trading routes. However, in the long run, the routes to and via Greece will be open again to us.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you fear tensions with the Albanian minority, who, after all, constitute a third of Macedonia's population?

[Gligorov] Even in our worst times we did not have any problems with our Albanian fellow-citizens. The only thing we do not permit is the demand by certain circles to declare them Macedonia's second state-constituting people. We give the Albanian minority all the rights that are set down in the Helsinki Final Act.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will this prevent radical Albanians from striving for unification with the Albanian motherland in the long run?

[Gligorov] It is no secret that there is the idea of a greater Albania. However, all these dreams of greater Serbia, greater Croatia, greater Albania—what is their point?

Government Ready To Resume Negotiations

AU0104172194 Skopje VECER in Macedonian 1 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by G.M.: "Niemitz Invariably Silent"]

[Excerpts] Even after his second one hour meeting with President Gligorov, Michael Niemitz, U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy for the Greek-Macedonian dispute, did not waver in his previous statement that he would give no comment on his assignment and that it should be kept away from the public. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] informed that the absolute necessity of lifting the Greek embargo against our country was reiterated at this meeting. Moreover, the Republic of Macedonia's interest and promptness in immediately continuing the

negotiations on all disputed questions within the frameworks of the United Nations was also emphasized. [passage omitted]

FRY Soldiers Abduct, Release Border Patrol

AU0404150494 Skopje MILS-NEWS in English 4 Apr 94

[Unattributed report: "Police Patrol Seized"]

[Text] On 30 March 1994, around 1100, in the vicinity of the spot called Mecka near Kumanovo, three members of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's army abducted a three-member police patrol at the police station in Zeglane, reports the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The police patrol was on its regular duty when in the vicinity of Mecka they were surrounded by three members of the FRY army. The latter pointed their guns at the policemen and told them to leave the vehicle and to surrender. Their weapons were then taken and the patrol, together with their vehicle, were brought to the Prohor Pcinski border army station on Yugoslav territory. Somewhere around 2230 on the same day, the patrol were set free and, together with the complete equipment, their arms and the vehicle, were delivered to the Macedonian border authorities. The incident took place on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] 350-400 meters off the border line. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Macedonia delivered a protest note to the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, expressing deep concern considering the fact that such incidents do not contribute to the establishment of regular friendly relations between the two neighboring countries.

Serbia

Romanian Minister Voices Support for Belgrade

LD0404173194 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's visit to Romania on Tuesday and his meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu is a step forward in the search for a solution to the problems of the region, Romanian Education Minister Liviu Maior said in Belgrade on Monday.

Maior, who is the vice president of the National Council of the ruling Social-Democratic Party of Romania (PSDR), met in Belgrade on Monday with a delegation of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) headed by Goran Percevic—the vice president of the biggest party both in the republican and the federal [word indistinct].

The major achievement of the talks was an agreement to convene a Balkan meeting of moderate leftist parties to be held under the slogan "Balkans to the Balkan peoples", Percevic said.

He said that there was agreement about the direct link between peace and stability in these territories and the "fact that only the Balkan peoples and states should shape their own destinies."

The SPS Information Service announced that Maior said that Bucharest is in principle opposed to the U.N. sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which Romania, as a member of the United Nations, has been forced to implement.

The U.N. Security Council in late May 1992 imposed strict sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia due to its alleged involvement in the civil war between the local Serbs, Croats and Moslems in the neighbouring ex-Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Maior underscored that the sanctions have caused much damage to Romania and recalled a recent statement by that country's leadership that the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia should be lifted out of ethical and humanitarian reasons, and because of the damage they are causing to the entire Balkan region.

Romania said that in 1993, it has suffered damage amounting to seven billion dollars, while in the case of the other countries in the region this figure exceeds tens of billions of dollars.

Percevic warned that a part of the international community verbally urges a peace, while at the same time shutting its eyes before the fierce Moslem offensive in the territory of the Bosnian Serb Republic (RS) and thus threatening to annul everything achieved so far in the peace process.

The Moslems launched an offensive on RS in mid-March encouraged by the Washington agreement on setting up a Moslem-Croat federation in Bosnia.

Kosovo

Rugova: 'No Parallel' Between Kosovo, Krajina

AU0104183994 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the republic of Kosova, held a news conference in Prishtina today. Here is a telephone report by our correspondent, Leke Musolli:

[Musolli] At the beginning of today's news conference, the president of the republic of Kosova, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, welcomed the visit of Albanian President Dr. Sali Berisha to Great Britain and considered it as very important, as it focused on the situation in the region and particularly on the grave situation in Kosova. Our political project on Kosova, which is supported by all the Albanian political parties, is clear and derives from the 1991 plebiscite on Kosova as independent and neutral state.

Rugova said that despite attempts to prevent the internationalization of the Kosova question, even this week Kosova was at the center of attention of the international community and forums. On this occasion, he greeted the report of Amnesty International, which objectively describes the torture and recent imprisonments in Kosova and will help the world to understand the repressive and police situation in Kosova.

Rugova also greeted the report of the Helsinki Committee of the U.S. Congress on human rights and the bill presented by U.S. Congressmen Angle and Molinari, which seeks a solution for Kosova, precisely to stop the repression in Kosova.

Rugova also welcomed all the rallies of Albanians all over Europe, which helped to sensitize people to the Albanian question.

At today's news conference, Rugova informed reporters about the police repression that the Serbian authorities has recently been causing in Kosova.

Asked whether there are any indications of an Albanian-Serb dialogue, Rugova stressed that for the moment there are no such initiatives, but added that the Albanian side is ready for unconditional dialogue, internationally supervised.

Another reporter asked Rugova how he would comment on the threats by a parliamentary group from the Russian Duma, members of Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, who visited Kosova a few days ago. Rugova said that he considered such threats as a manifestation of Russian extremism but expressed his conviction that it did not present any serious problem. On the contrary, such forces are distressing for Yeltsin's power itself.

At today's news conference, the president of Kosova welcomed the agreement on the cease-fire between the representatives of Knin and the Croatian authorities. However, no parallel can be made between the problem of Knin and the Kosova question, the president of the republic of Kosova, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, said at the end of today's news conference.